MONDAY
September 15, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

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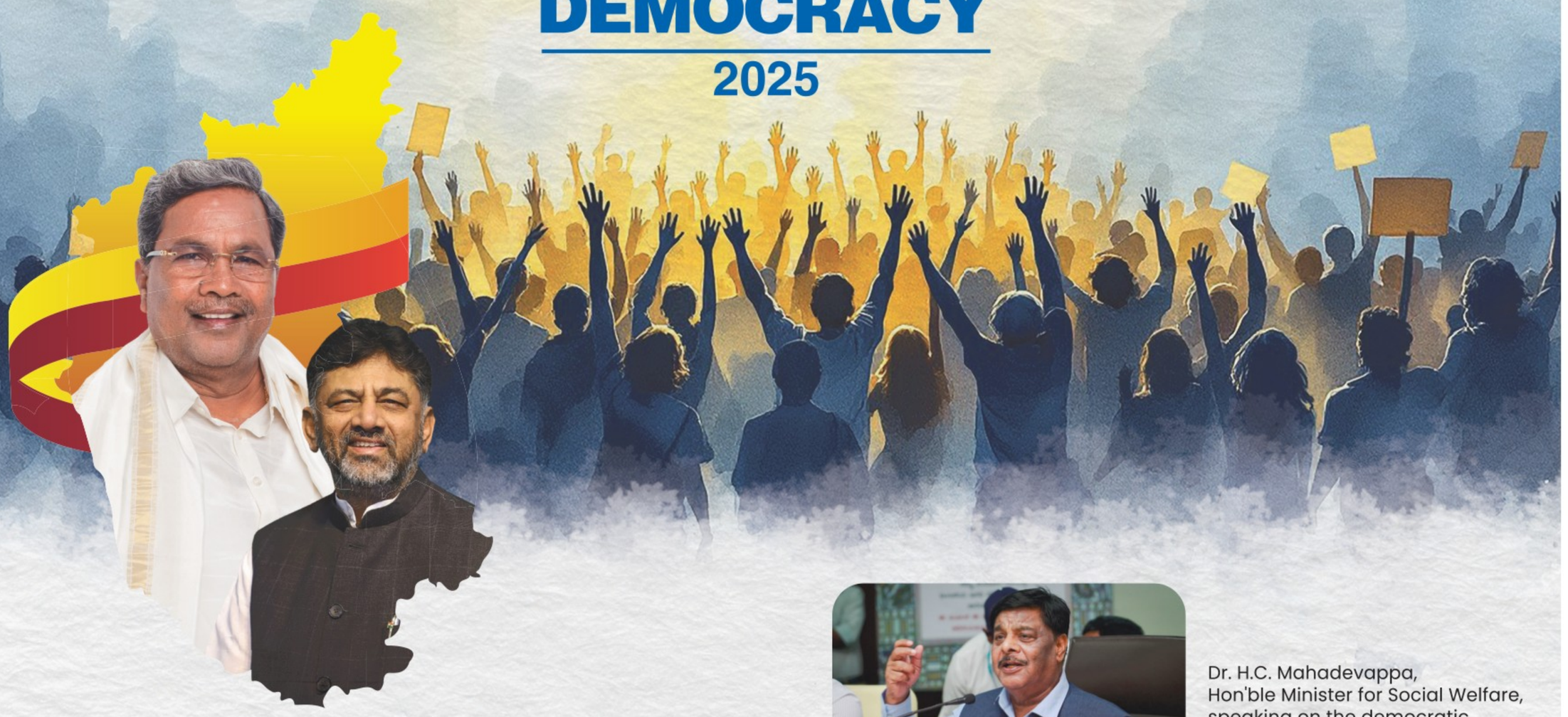
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

The strength of the
DEMOCRACY
lies in the
BALLOT

International Day of
DEMOCRACY
2025



Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa,
Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare,
speaking on the democratic
principles enshrined in the
Constitution of India.

GUARANTEE SARKARA
REBUILDING A NEW KARNATAKA

District-Level Cycle Rally | State-Level Bike Rally | Democracy Radio Program | Painting Competition for School Children
₹6 crore DBT Incentives for 1,000 Meritorious KREIS PU Students | Photography Competition | Speech Competition

Social Welfare Department | Youth Empowerment and Sports Department | Urban Development Department | Backward Classes Welfare Department
Tribal Welfare Department | Minority Welfare Department | Higher Education Department | Labour Department | School Education and Literacy Department
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department | Women and Child Welfare Department | Greater Bengaluru Authority | Bangalore Development Authority
Mysore Sales International Limited | Karnataka Milk Federation

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FAO CHIEF ECONOMIST INTERVIEW

'India should focus on food diversification'

NEWS » PAGE 10

DRONE STRIKE

Ukraine attacks key Russian refinery

WORLD » PAGE 12

GEN Z DEMAND

Nepal PM vows to 'end corruption'

WORLD » PAGE 12

DATA POINT

Ending import duty on cotton

Industry has welcomed move while farmers have opposed it

OPINION » PAGE 7

IN CRUISE MODE

Litchfield powers Australia to victory

SPORT » PAGE 13

Calling the shots

Wreckers-in-chief: India's three-wicket hero Kuldeep Yadav celebrates a dismissal with his skipper Suryakumar Yadav and fellow wicket-takers Axar Patel and Jasprit Bumrah in their Asia Cup league match in Dubai on Sunday. After restricting Pakistan to 127 for nine in its 20 overs, India cantered home in 15.5 overs losing just three wickets. REUTERS (REPORT ON PAGE 13)

PM alleges plot to change mix of border population

In Assam, he says the conspiracy is a grave threat to national security, necessitating a demography mission across the country; he accuses the Congress of 'shielding and protecting infiltrators'

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Union government is preparing to launch a mission to thwart a conspiracy to alter the composition of the population in the border areas of the country with the help of "infiltrators", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in Assam on Sunday.

Addressing a meeting at Mangaldoi in Darrang district, he said those bent upon sheltering infiltrators had been waging such a conspiracy in the areas bordering Bangladesh. Mangaldoi is about 70 km northeast of Guwahati.

"This is a grave threat to national security, necessitating a demography mission across the country," Mr. Modi said, underscoring the BJP's "goal" of ejecting infiltrators to save Indian citizens from them.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in Darrang, Assam on Sunday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

"I want to tell the [pro-infiltrator] politicians that I have accepted their challenge," he said, accusing the Congress of shielding and protecting these infiltrators. "Write it down. I will see how you use your strength to protect the infiltrators and how we put our lives on the line to remove them. Let there be a contest. Those protecting the infiltrators will suffer, and mark my words, the country will not pardon them," Mr. Modi said.

He said the Congress had supported infiltration when it was in power. "The Congress wants the infiltrators to stay in Bharat permanently and decide its future," he said.

"Congress promoted the encroachment of the land of our farmers, tribal people, and places of worship. BJP is changing that situation by clearing encroachment. Under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, lakhs of *bighas* (one *bigha* is about 0.13 hectare) of land, grabbed by infiltrators, have been taken back. These include Darrang district's Gorukhuti," he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

NEARBY

Cong. sets up committee to fight civic polls

BENGALURU
The Congress has formed a committee of all MLAs, MLCs, and defeated candidates in Assembly and Lok Sabha polls in the city to prepare the party for civic polls. » PAGE 3

No power shortage this year, says CM

MYSURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that there will be no shortage of power supply in Karnataka this year. He said that the State had fortunately received good rainfall over the last two years and all the reservoirs were full. » PAGE 5

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE J2

'LeT using flood aid fund to rebuild headquarters'

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The globally banned terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has been raising funds through online and offline drives to construct its headquarters in Muridke, which was struck by the Indian Air Force on May 7 during Operation Sindoor, according to security agencies.

The air strike had targeted three main buildings inside the 1.09-acre Markaz Taiba complex in Muridke.

According to the security agencies, funds are being collected under the guise of "relief for flood victims".

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 8

Centre reopens PLI scheme for white goods till Oct. 14, cites market growth

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government has reopened the application window for the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods, it said on Sunday, citing market growth and growing industry confidence following the success of earlier rounds of the scheme.

"The application window for the PLI Scheme for white goods (Air Conditioners and LED lights) is being reopened based on the appetite of the industry to invest more under the scheme, which is an outcome of the growing market and confidence generated due to manufacturing of key components of ACs and LED lights in India under the PLI for white goods scheme," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said on Sunday.

Switching on

The Union government is reopening the application window for the Production-Linked Incentive scheme for white goods

- **Application window:** Sept. 15 to Oct. 14
- **Scheme goal:** To boost manufacturing of **AC and LED light** components, including those not currently produced in sufficient quantities in India
- **Who can apply:** Both **new applicants** and **existing beneficiaries** who wish to invest more

- **Current status:** 83 applicants with a committed investment of **₹10,406 crore** have already been selected

More investments

The application window for the scheme will remain open between September 15 and October 14.

The release further said that in order to avoid any discrimination, both new applicants as well as existing beneficiaries of the scheme who want to invest more would be eligible to apply, subject to the guidelines.

So far, the Ministry said, 83 applicants with committed investment of ₹10,406 crore have been selected as beneficiaries under the scheme. "The investments will lead to manufacturing of components of Air Conditioners and LED lights across the complete value chain including components which are not manufactured in India presently with sufficient quantity," it said.

The Union Cabinet had given its approval for the PLI scheme for white goods for the manufacture of components and sub-assemblies of ACs and LED lights in April 2021. The scheme was to be implemented over seven years, from the financial year 2021-22 to 2028-29, with an outlay of ₹6,238 crore.

Pendency continues to plague SC as case backlog hits all-time high of 88,417

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court has reached an all-time high of 88,417, even when the court is currently functioning with its full sanctioned judicial strength of 34 judges.

The court has 69,553 civil cases and 18,864 criminal matters pending currently, the National Judicial Data Grid shows. The filing of fresh cases in August surpassed the disposal rate. A total of 7,080 cases were instituted in the court in August. The court has managed a disposal rate of 5,667 cases in the month, that is, 80.04% of the cases filed. The escalation in pendency is despite Chief Justice B.R. Gavai's decision to have more Benches working through the long summer recess of the court in a bid to decrease the case log.

Working on holidays

The CJI had renamed the summer holidays from May 23 to July "partial working days". The CJI and five senior-most judges of the court had presided over the first batch of Benches hearing cases during the summer recess. A total of 21 Benches sat in batches throughout the "partial working days", hearing and disposing of cases, till the court reopened in July.

In 2025, 52,630 cases were filed while 46,309, nearly 88%, were disposed of during a year which has already seen two Chief Justices of India with a third, Justice Surya Kant, expected to be sworn in in late November. The corresponding period in 2024 had seen a similar climb in pendency to a then peak of over 82,000 cases. The increase in pendency persists despite successive Chief Justices, from Justice D.Y. Chandrachud to Justice Gavai, taking care to maintain judicial vacancy in the top court to a minimum, if not zero.

Delayed justice

The Supreme Court continues to battle the problem of pendency of cases

Current pendency **88,417** cases, an all-time high

Civil cases **69,553**

Criminal cases **18,864**

AUGUST DATA	2025 ANNUAL DATA
Cases instituted **7,080**	Cases filed **52,630**
Cases disposed **5,667**	Cases disposed **46,309** *(nearly 88%)*
Disposal rate **80.04%** *(of cases in August)*	**Judicial strength:** The court is currently functioning with its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges

The escalation is despite decision to have more Benches working during the SC's summer recess

The unceasing increase in backlog has become a perennial phenomenon since the pandemic years, and especially since 2023. The pendency had continued to rise steadily despite Justice Chandrachud, when he was CJI, acting swiftly to fill vacancies in the top court. His successors to the top judge post, Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Gavai, have spearheaded their own collegiums to promptly recommend names of judges to the government.

Past Chief Justices and even collegium resolutions have raised the issue of "huge workload".

A November 2023 collegium resolution had mentioned the bare truth that the court cannot afford even one vacancy, taking into account the "ever mounting pendency of cases". "The workload of judges has increased considerably. Bearing in mind the above, it has become necessary to ensure that the court has full working judge-strength leaving no vacancy at any point of time," the collegium had underscored.

The recent months have seen the government approve collegium recommendations for appointment to the Supreme Court without delay, often within 48 hours. Yet, the backlog continues to rise steadily.

Mounting debts drive couple to kill children in Hosakote; man found dead, his wife rescued

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Caught in a debt trap owing to medical treatment, a couple killed their two minor children and decided to end their lives.

While the man died, his wife was rescued by their relatives. The incident happened in Gonakanahalli village, Hosakote, on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Shivakumar, 32, his daughter Chandrakala, 11, and son Uday Surya, 7.

The police detained Shivakumar's wife Manjula, 30, on the charge of murder for further investigation.

The family was caught in a debt trap owing to the medical treatment of the man who became bedridden after a road accident four years ago

Road accident

According to the police, Shivakumar, a daily wage employee, met with a hit-and-run road accident four years ago and was forced to stop working after both his legs were badly injured. The couple borrowed a huge loan for Shivakumar's medical treatment.

Though Manjula worked as a domestic help, it was not enough for the family and the couple was under pressure to repay the loan.

Unable to bear this, the couple decided to end their lives after killing their children, said the police.

As per the plan, the couple strangled the children while they were sleeping and submerged their heads in a bucket filled with water to ensure their deaths, said the police.

Shivakumar asked Manjula to get some snacks to eat as a last meal and inform her relatives about their plan, so that they would be able to perform the last rites after their deaths.

When Manjula went out to the shop, Shivakumar ended his life. Manjula went to the house of her relatives and informed them about the plan, said the police.

Police alerted

While returning home, the relatives became suspicious and followed her. They alerted the police before she could take the extreme step in her house.

The Hosakote police shifted the bodies for autopsy and detained Manjula on the charge of murdering her children.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

Exposure trips to Belgium helped me compete with better athletes and get crucial rankings points

The 23-year-old from Maharashtra is keen to prove his mettle against the best in the world; looks forward to savour the experience and use it as a learning curve going ahead

INTERVIEW

TEJAS SHIRSE

K. Keerthivasan

Tejas Shirse is nursing a foot injury which he has been carrying for a while now. The reigning National record holder (13.41s) in 110m hurdles, however, insists it will not hold him from putting his best foot forward in his maiden World (senior) championships in Tokyo. Tejas will be competing in the 110m Heats on September 15.

"To line up against the best in the world is something else. And see how my training, my attitude, my ambition stands against the best in the world. And most important, not get timid and back down just by having good athletes by your side," he said.

In this interview, the 23-year-old from Maharashtra speaks to *The Hindu* about his qualification to Worlds, his training methods, how much the exposure trips this year helped him get crucial ranking points to qualify for the Worlds, and how the information about him being the second Indian hurdler to make it to the Worlds doesn't excite him, among other things. *Excerpts:*

How does it feel to compete in your first World Championships?

Mixed emotions. I'm very excited. At the same time, it's a big stage. Moreover, I'm excited to see how it will actually turn out. I'm really confident that I will put my best foot forward. Actually, my preparation wasn't as good as it should have been because of my injury. But I'm hoping I will still be at my best. I have no expectations. I want to savour the experience as well. To line up against the best in the world is something else. And see how my training, my attitude, my ambition stands against the best in the world. And most important, not get timid and back down just by having good athletes by your side.

You qualified through the World rankings...

If World Athletics has to select an athlete on rankings basis, one must have competed in at least five high-level competitions and performed well there. I think the cornerstone of I getting selected for the Worlds has been the foreign exposure trips. Actually, my two fastest timings have come outside India in Finland (13.41s) and Belgium (13.51s). Because what happens is, when you are running against better athletes, you have to be at your best to do well. That's when you really dig deep and that performance comes out.

Do you want to register a sub-13.50s at Tokyo. Or content making the semifinals?

No, no, not timing-wise, but I know that if I give my best and even if I run like a sub-13.50s or 13.40s, I will have a good chance of making it to the semifinals and take it from there.

Could you explain how difficult it was to run in the Chennai National inter-state meet (August 20 to 24) since there were sudden spells of rain? It must have dampened your enthusiasm. You did 13.60s, which was well below your personal best and well below the Worlds qualifying mark of 13.27s...

I prepared well for Chennai. I had run 13.51s [in Leuven, Belgium] on August 16. I know I can't blame the rain. But it, definitely, hampered a little bit of speed. Moreover, the event was delayed by an hour or so and that certainly played a part. I still got selected for the Worlds and I'm really happy.

You did 13.51s, which was the season's best in Belgium. Was that a sort of confidence booster coming to the World championships qualifiers in Chennai?

I could do that (13.51s) in Belgium because I had good competitors with me. Having good competitors also pushes you a lot.

After the Chennai meet, there were talks that you might not make it to the Worlds and then later you qualified...

Yes, yes. I was checking daily what changes were there in the World Athletics list for the World championships. Because most of the time, you know, out of the 40 who qualify in 110mH, there will be someone or the other who might pull out because of some injuries or some other issues. I was hoping that I would make it this year. But yes, definitely, it was an anxious wait for me.

You suffered an injury this season. Can you explain what injury it was and how difficult it was to make a comeback?

It was an injury to my left foot. I had a stress reaction in that foot. I still have that. Actually, I ran with pain in Chennai. I gritted the pain out. I pushed a little more because I really wanted to make the cut for the World championships. So, after the race in Taiwan in June this year, I incurred the pain. Overall, I had two hamstring tears on my left hamstring. Actually, I took rest for two months after the Taiwan competition as I couldn't do anything. I was just doing swimming and stuff at the Reliance Centre in Ulwe (Navi Mumbai). Then I went to Belgium for a couple of races in Leuven and Oordegem. That was really helpful for me to get crucial ranking points for the World championships.

Go through your emotions of creating a National record (13.41s) in Finland in May last year. How big was that for you?

It was good. It was my first national record. I really felt like I had arrived to do what I knew I could do. And yes, every emotion, the exhilarating emotions just came out after I crossed the finish line.

You are the second Indian hurdler after Siddhanth Thingalaya to make the cut for Worlds. He achieved the feat in 2017 Worlds in London...

I don't think it's something to be proud about because I would have really hoped that there were more people qualifying and more people going to the championships. When more people from a country qualifies, it shows that you have more competition, it shows that you are a sporting nation. But if you are just the second by qualifying for the World Championships till date, it shows that we have very less competition in India.

We heard that you actually started as a long jumper?

I did a long jump competition in school like we all do in the beginning. I did gymnastics for a year. My gymnastics background really helped me in hurdles because it's a technical event, and you need a lot of body awareness for it. So, being a gymnast, sometimes, I have a lot of body awareness.

Who were the coaches who shaped you?

It really happened on my own, but Poonam Rathore, the Physical Education teacher at my school. She really pushed me into pursuing athletics. And then, after that, I joined an academy in Chatrapati Sambhajinagar in Maharashtra under Surendra Modi. So, I trained there for one and a half years, and I got an u-17 national gold medal in 110m hurdles.

You joined Reliance Foundation Program around three years back. How has it helped you shape your career?

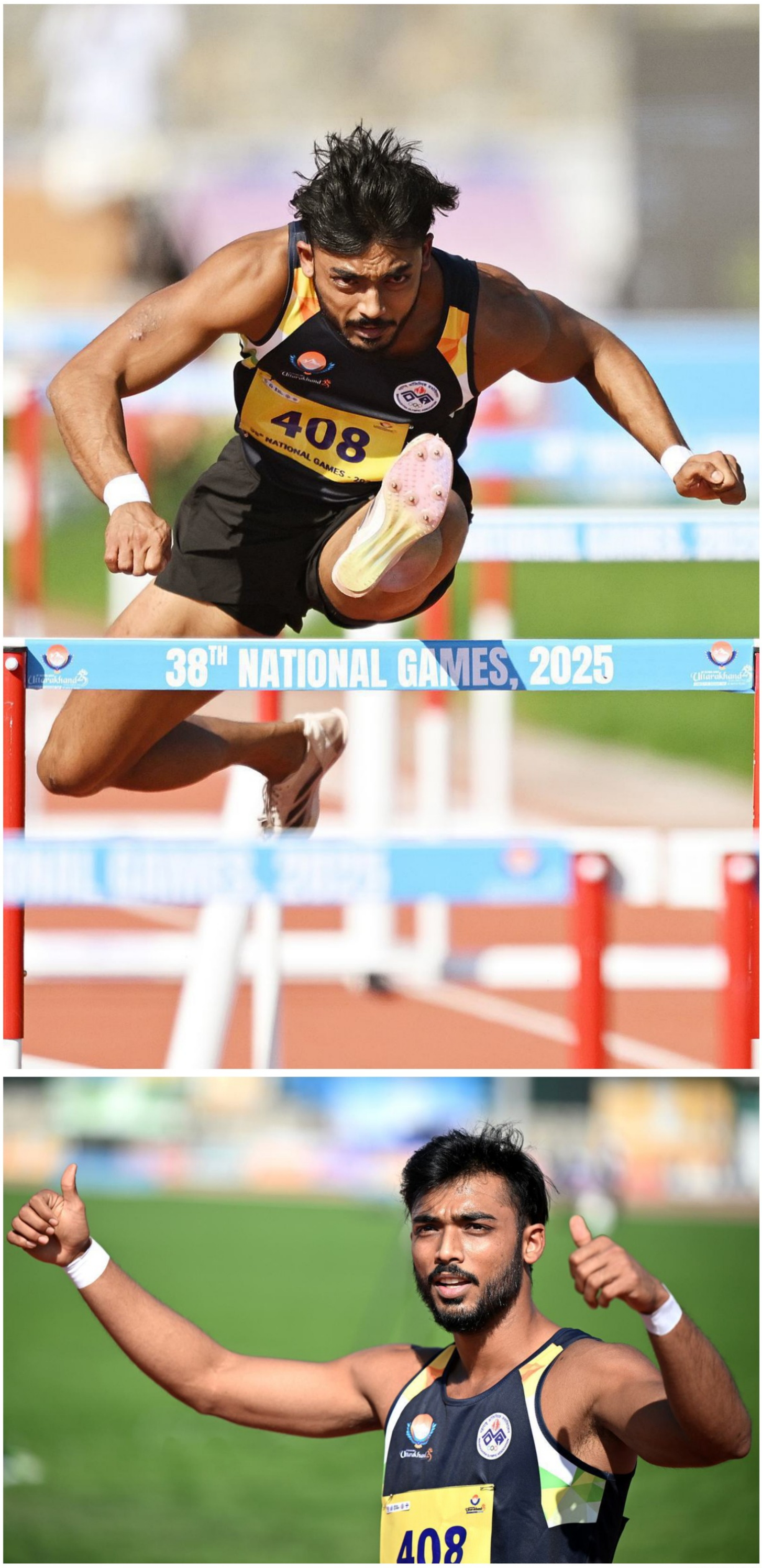
I joined Reliance in late 2022, I was, at the time, I wanted to have somebody who can guide me, and also have some training partners. So female hurdler, Jyoti (Yarraji) was training under coach James Hillier (Athletics Director at Reliance Foundation). I looked at it as an opportunity to train with another athlete who is doing good as well. I heard a lot of good things about James and then we had a very good conversation on a phone call. That's when I decided to join Reliance. They have really been helpful in a lot of things.

Of course, your immediate goal is to do well in Worlds. What is your long-term goal?

We are currently under a lot of back-and-forth planning. So, it's nothing solid yet.

Any changes you have made strategy-wise and in fitness?

We have three phases of training. One is the off-season followed by mid-season and then competition. This year, I suffered a lot of injuries. So, we weren't able to go through those phases properly. We weren't able to train properly. Because of multiple injuries I had this year. But still, qualifying for the World championships, I look at it as a great positive.



RITU RAJ KONWAR

THE HINDU GROUP

CELEBRATING THE QUIET DREAMERS WHO DRIVE POWERFUL CHANGE.

Join us live as we applaud the changemakers shaping tomorrow.

They are the visionaries who dream quietly and act with intent. Their steady pursuit of progress turns belief into action, and action into a future we can all look forward to.

The Hindu businessLine Changemaker Awards 2025 celebrates these leaders of change, recognising the ones who challenge the ordinary and set in motion ripples that transform lives and communities.

This year's edition stands as a testament to their enduring spirit and celebrates the power of ideas that move beyond individuals to transform the course of our collective future.

CHIEF GUEST
Shri Hardeep Singh Puri
Honourable Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India

TIME **6 pm Onwards**
DATE **September 26**
LOCATION **Mumbai**

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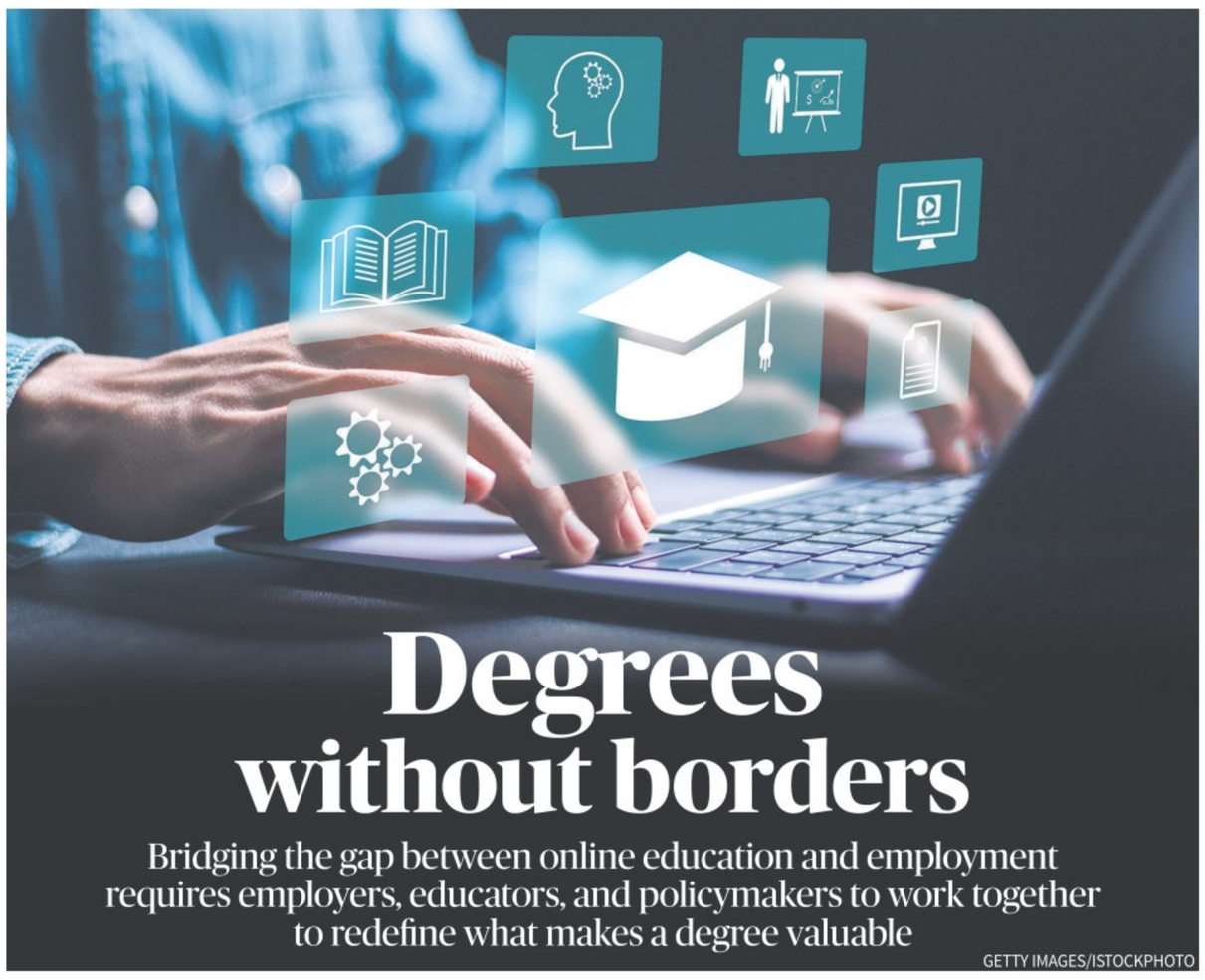
Vasanth Gopal



Degrees without borders

Bridging the gap between online education and employment requires employers, educators, and policymakers to work together to redefine what makes a degree valuable

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The COVID-19 pandemic may have fast-tracked India's digital learning revolution, but the job market hasn't quite caught up. Despite the University Grants Commission (UGC) formally recognising online degrees from accredited institutions, employers remain hesitant. A 2023 report by Aspiring Minds found that just 18% of recruiters consider online degrees equivalent to traditional ones; a sobering statistic in a country where online enrolments have nearly tripled from 1.4 million in 2020 to 4.1 million in 2023.

Fault line

This disconnect between education and employment reveals a deeper fault line in India's evolving learning ecosystem. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisions a future where hybrid and online learning are integral to higher education. But, for many job-seekers, that vision remains aspirational.

Employer scepticism is rooted in perception and policy. A 2024 Shine.com survey found that 72% of job postings still explicitly require "regular degrees", even for roles that could be performed by online graduates. The wage gap is equally telling. Online degree-holders earn 15-20% less than their offline peers in similar roles, according to the Indian Labour Market Report (2023).

Sectoral differences further complicate the picture. While IT and IT-enabled services (ITES) firms are relatively open – 34% reportedly hire online graduates – traditional sectors such as banking and government remain resistant, with acceptance rates below 5%.

Concerns about academic integrity and skill development continue to fuel employer distrust. A 2023 study by Delhi Tech University found that 41% of online students admitted to malpractice during exams.

Compounding this is the limited use of AI-based proctoring. Only 60% of UGC-recognised online programmes currently employ such tools, leaving room for fraud and undermining credibility.

Intangible benefits

Beyond technical skills, employers also value the intangible benefits of in-person education – communication, collaboration, and critical thinking – often nurtured in physical classrooms. Hybrid models, while promising, still struggle to replicate these experiences effectively. Cultural perceptions add another layer of resistance. A CSDS-Lokniti survey (2023) revealed that 68% of Indian parents distrust online degrees, reinforcing the belief that offline education is inherently more rigorous and prestigious.

The NEP's push for hybrid learning faces practical challenges. While 45% of universities now offer online programmes, only 12% of Fortune 500 companies in India have updated their hiring policies to accommodate them. Infrastructure gaps persist; just 30% of rural colleges have access to reliable digital tools, according to AICTE (2024). Faculty resistance is another barrier: over half the professors surveyed by the Education Ministry in 2023 opposed hybrid teaching, citing increased workloads and lack of training.

Yet, there are glimmers of hope. IIT-Madras's online BS programme, for instance, boasts a 92% placement rate, thanks to strong industry partnerships with firms like Tata Consultancy Services. Amity University's hybrid MBA programme uses blockchain technology to secure certificates, addressing concerns around forgery and authenticity. These examples show that when quality, transparency, and employer engagement align, online education can deliver results.

Bridging the gap between online education and employment will require more than regulatory tweaks. It demands a cultural shift, one where employers, educators, and policymakers work together to redefine what makes a degree valuable. Co-designed curricula, robust assessments, and transparent credentialing can help build trust.

The UGC is already moving in this direction, mandating stricter proctoring and standardised evaluations. But for the NEP's vision to truly take root, employers must evolve alongside the education system. In a digital age, learning can no longer be confined to classrooms. What matters most is not where a student studied, but what they can do.

The writer is Associate Professor and Head of Department of Visual Communication, Dwaraka Doss Goverdhan Doss Vaishnav College (Autonomous), Chennai

SCHOLARSHIPS

Nagaland State Research Scholarship
An initiative of the Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Nagaland.
Eligibility: Open to Scheduled Tribe (ST) and indigenous students of Nagaland in the first year of M.Phil., Ph,D., or D.Litt. course from a recognised Indian university.
Rewards: Variable
Application: Scholarship Section, Directorate of Higher Education Below New Secretariat Complex, Kohima 797001
Deadline: September 30
www.b4s.in/edge/RNSS3

Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships
An initiative of Reliance Foundation
Eligibility: Resident Indian citizens who secured between 550 and 1000 in GATE or have scored 7.5 or above CGPA in UG and are in the first year of a postgraduate programme in Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Maths and Computing, Electrical/or Electronics Engineering., Chemical Engineering., Mechanical Engineering., Renewable and New Energy, Material, Science and Engineering, and Life Sciences.
Rewards: Up to ₹ 600,000
Application: Online
Deadline: October 4
www.b4s.in/edge/RFS12

Reliance Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships
An initiative of the Reliance Foundation
Eligibility: Resident Indian citizens who have passed Class 12 with minimum 60% and are currently enrolled in the first year of a regular full-time degree course in any stream and have an annual family income of less than ₹250,000.
Rewards: Up to ₹ 200,000
Application: Online
Deadline: October 4
www.b4s.in/edge/RFS13

Courtesy: Buddy4study.com

TEDxGateway Youth

The Museum of Solutions (MuSo), Mumbai, is hosting TEDxGateway Youth on the theme Build Our Tomorrow.

The event aims to showcase young visionaries from around the world, share breakthrough ideas and solutions to today's most critical socio-environmental challenges, and spotlight the next generation of changemakers who are shaping a more sustainable and compassionate world.

Dates: September 18 and 19

For details, visit rb.gy/qmzkv8

GBA to undertake Bengaluru Water Resilience Project

World Bank approves a loan of $426 million for the project; amount to be disbursed between 2026 and 2031

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will take up the Bengaluru Water Resilience Project, marking its first independent project apart from supervising the works of B-SMILE, the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of GBA, confirmed to *The Hindu* that the new civic authority will oversee the project, as the funds are routed through the government.

Under its Programme-for-Results financing, the World Bank has approved a loan of $426 million (approximately ₹3,500 crore) for the project. The loan will be disbursed between 2026 and 2031, and will be used to strengthen stormwater drains (SWDs) and build sewage treatment plants (STPs).

Earlier, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had been entrusted with implementing the project. The civic body had even floated tenders and issued work orders. With the BBMP now dissolved, the GBA will handle SWD works, while the BWSSB will manage STP works.

The World Bank loan will be used to strengthen storm-water drains and build sewage treatment plants. FILE PHOTO

Another GBA official explained that the World Bank was informed that the BBMP would implement the project.

Handing over responsibility to the new corporations could cause confusion and negative consequences, especially since loan disbursals are linked to outcomes. Hence, the GBA decided to take charge of the project.

Although B-SMILE, formed to manage mega projects, could have been assigned the work, the GBA is unlikely to do so, as B-SMILE is already handling four separate projects, the official added. Instead, the GBA plans to deploy more engineers and lead the project under the supervision of one of the Special Commissioners.

While sanctioning the loan, the World Bank emphasised climate financing. In response, the State government pointed to the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Since then, the Climate Action Cell (CAC), which had been functioning under the BBMP with its own budget, has been strengthened. With additional deputations, fellows have also been appointed to implement the plan. According to officials, the CAC is working on multiple fronts, including flood mitigation and other climate-related issues.

Budget

The total project cost is estimated at ₹5,000 crore, with over half of it funded by the World Bank loan. The State government will contribute the balance. For smaller works, the GBA will use its current and only source of revenue, fees collected from single-site approval works, which was earlier done by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA).

Recently, the government vested the GBA with some powers of the BDA. Mr. Rao confirmed that income from works previously carried out by the BDA, now transferred to the GBA (within GBA jurisdiction), will serve as the civic authority's first and only source of revenue.

Govt. urged to reallocate COMEDK quota as over 18,500 seats remain vacant

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

More than 18,500 engineering seats under the Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMEDK) remain vacant this year, including around 300 seats in Bengaluru's top engineering colleges, even in high-demand courses like Computer Science, Electronics and Communication Engineering, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

With these seats slipping into the management quota, students may end up paying 400-700% more in fees for the same courses. Students and parents have said that the State government should reconsider the current 30% reservation for COMEDK and shift some seats to KCET, where demand for top colleges remains strong despite a slight drop in cutoffs.

Currently, VTU-affiliated and autonomous engineering colleges in Karnataka divide their seats as 45% for KCET, 30% for COMEDK, and 25% for NRI or management quota. KCET seats are the most sought after because their fees are regulated by the government.

COMEDK charges are higher, and management quota seats are the costliest. Since the rules do not permit unfilled COMEDK seats to return to KCET, vacancies automatically flow into management. Parents, however, argue that this loophole ends up benefiting colleges at the expense of students.

"This is nothing but a loss for families and a gain for private institutions. Vacant COMEDK seats must first be given to KCET before going to management," said Suri Mahesh, a parent representative. The current system creates a skewed incentive, and colleges are not penalised if COMEDK seats go unfilled, because those same seats become part of the most lucrative quota, Mr. Mahesh added.

Students and parents say that the State government should reconsider the current 30% reservation for COMEDK and shift some seats to KCET. FILE PHOTO

Citing the example of BMS College of Engineering, Basavanagudi, where 65 Computer Science seats went vacant under COMEDK this year, while the KCET cutoff closed at rank 4,919, Gayathri M.K., a student, pointed out that if those seats had been transferred to KCET, about 65 more students could have secured them at government-quota fees. Instead, the shift to management will multiply the cost of the same education five to seven times, she said.

Parents demanded a single-window admission system for KCET and COMEDK. This, they explained, would ensure students get to choose across both streams transparently and prevent seats from slipping into the management quota simply because they were unclaimed in one counselling system.

Parents want KCET to act independently of the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) when it comes to medical and dental admissions. They argue that KCET should assign State-quota seats first, and then conduct mop-up rounds for any vacancies created when students later secure MCC allotments. "A similar mop-up could be applied for engineering. If seats remain unfilled in COMEDK, they should be offered to KCET students before being surrendered to management," Gururaj Shivananda, a parent, suggested.

"If KCET and COMEDK are to remain separate processes, KCET must conclude before COMEDK. The current schedule pressures students to opt for costlier COMEDK seats first, and if they later surrender those seats after getting a KCET allotment, the vacancies revert to management instead of being reallotted. Synchronising timelines would give students genuine choice without pushing them into higher-fee categories," Mr. Shivananda added.

Private colleges, however, defend the current model, noting that COMEDK was created to provide access to students outside Karnataka. They maintain that the vacancies reflect affordability concerns rather than flaws in the system. "Families naturally prefer KCET because it is cheaper. COMEDK has higher fees, so if students cannot afford them, those seats remain vacant. If students or parents fear the seats will go to management quota and thus raise fees, they should have taken admission earlier under COMEDK," said an administrator of a Bengaluru college.

Student assaulted by batchmates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 20-year-old law student of a private college was allegedly assaulted by his batchmates in Yelahanka recently.

The victim, Sesu Srujan, was treated at a hospital after the incident, and later filed a complaint with the police on Friday against two persons identified as Prajwal and Askhay.

Based on the complaint, the police charged the accused under Sections 118 (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means) and 351 (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, for further investigation.

Srujan, a first-year law student, was planning to return home in his car after attending the freshers' day event of his college, when two of his female batchmates requested him to drop them home.

Srujan agreed and when they got into his car, the accused confronted him and demanded to talk to one of the girls. The girl, however, refused to entertain them stating that she wanted to go home since it was already late.

While Srujan tried to reason with them, the accused allegedly dragged him out of the car and assaulted him with a metal bangle and ring. Following this, they reportedly left a bleeding Srujan lying on the ground, and threatened him with dire consequences if he filed any complaint.

CRY walk pushes for girls in STEM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Child Rights and You (CRY) on Sunday organised its annual walk 'EmpowHER' to empower girls in Bengaluru, calling for greater opportunities for girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

1,400 participants

Held at Cubbon Park, the walkathon brought together more than 1,400 participants, including students, professionals, volunteers, and social workers. Children and social workers led the march with placards and slogans, while cultural performances highlighted the theme 'Girls in STEM'.

Ex-BJP MLA booked for violating HC order

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Upparpet police have registered a case against a former BJP MLA and others for violating a High Court order by protesting outside the Freedom Park recently.

Based on a complaint filed by police sub-inspector Maruthi G., former BJP MLA for Kudachi P. Rajeev, BJP district president S. Harish, and others were charged under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and the Karnataka Police Act, 1963, for investigation.

According to the FIR, a permission was granted for a protest led by BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, who was opposing the State government's internal reservation policy, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on September 10. The protests were strictly restricted to Freedom Park as per a High Court order dated March 3, 2022.

Around 10 a.m., a group of around 5,000 party workers led by Mr. Vijayendra gathered at the venue for the protests. However, Mr. Rajeev allegedly violated the High Court order by leading a group of around 200 outside the park for demonstrations, thereby blocking the road near the Skywalk at Seshadri Junction.

Traffic disruption

As a result, traffic was disrupted on Sheshadri Road and the adjacent road for some time, before police dispersed the protestors, restoring normalcy, the complaint claimed.

Bengaluru real estate buyers among top investors riding on Dubai's Golden Visa

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

Amid a real estate boom in their own city, many Bengalureans are looking at an option far beyond for investment – Dubai. Multiple real estate players are recording a big jump in investments in Dubai from Indians, especially from Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Bengaluru, primarily buoyed by the Golden Visa.

The Golden Visa is a long-term residence visa which enables foreigners to live, work or study in the U.A.E. while enjoying exclusive benefits. Among the benefits are an entry visa for six months with multiple entries to proceed with residence issuance, a long-term, renewable residence visa valid for five or 10 years, not needing a sponsor, and the provision to stay outside the UAE for more than the usual period of six months to keep their residence visa valid.

Rizwan Sajan, Founder and Chairman of Danube Group, a real estate developer in the UAE, said roughly 35% of buyers and investors are from India or Indian expats living in Dubai. "However, the majority come from metro cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Bengaluru, where awareness of global real estate opportunities and appetite for luxury lifestyle investments are particularly strong," he said.

Indians have long been among the largest investor groups in Dubai's real estate market, and the introduction of the Golden Visa has amplified this trend. AFP

Long-term residency

Indians have long been among the largest investor groups in Dubai's real estate market, and the introduction of the Golden Visa has amplified this trend, he said. "The Golden Visa grants long-term residency to investors who invest above AED 2 million in Dubai. Real estate is one of the most attractive and straightforward avenues. For buyers, it offers not only a secure and stable investment, but also long-term residency benefits for themselves and their families. When compared to global hubs like London, Shanghai or New York, Dubai's per-square-foot pricing is highly competitive," he added.

Most buyers, he said, are businessmen with existing interests in Dubai, as well as professionals and HNIs (High Net Worth Individuals) seeking lifestyle assets with attractive returns.

Not just HNIs

Alok Priyadarshi, Founder, Homely Yours, a proptech startup, said they have recorded a nearly 40% increase in enquiries for Dubai properties due to the Golden Visa.

"This is not just an uptick in curiosity, but it has also translated into a clear rise in conversions. The middle-class buyer segment, in particular, has grown much faster than expected. Previously, Dubai was primarily a playground for HNIs, but now we are closing deals with salaried professionals and business families investing," he said. The upper middle class, particularly salaried professionals and mid-level entrepreneurs, are now able to afford smaller ticket-size properties, and studio and 1-BHK apartments in emerging communities are in high demand due to rental yield potential and affordability, he said, adding that a majority of these buyers are aged between 30 and 45 and are purchasing not for luxury, but for security and passive income generation.

From tier-II cities

Another trend he pointed out was the rising traction from traders and merchants in Tier-II cities such as Indore, Jaipur, and Chandigarh.

Abhishek Goswami, Principal Partner and Sales Director – GCC Markets, Square Yards, too spoke of this trend. "For these investors, the combination of competitive pricing and stronger rental yields than in their local markets makes Dubai a compelling proposition to park their funds."

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Bid No. E-34/2025-26 Date: 06.09.2025

E-TENDERS

E-tenders are invited for & on behalf of the president of India, E-tender for supply of following items. Only e-offer will be acceptable for which vendors must have class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS The details of tenders are I the following sequence **S. No., Tender No. (Due Date) Description and Quantity. 1.** 08251098B, Open tender, (06/10/2025), KIT FOR COPPER TUBE FOR MACHINE ROOM, (PL No. 29238250), 100 SET. **2.** 08251121A, Open tender, (06/10/2025), KIT FOR COPPER TUBE FOR MACHINE ROOM, (PL NO. 29238262), 100 SET. **3.** 03251237, (30.09.25), 3- Phase Asynchronous Traction Motor, PL No.29941180, 907 Nos. **4.** 09251196, (13/10/25), 800A FUSE .to PL No. 18310072, 835 Nos. **5.** 10251178, 30/09/2025, Modified After Cooller Asm, 16080919, 355 Nos. **6.** 10251300, 29/09/2025, Developmental Tender RETAINER SEAL ASM, 16330020, 60 Nos. **7.** 10251123, 13/10/2025 , BEARING-SPHERICAL SEAT THRUST, 16150442, 1056 Nos. **8.** 10251270, 29/10/2025, Developmental Tender for KIT OF TURBO DOWELLING COMPONENTS, 16081110, 30 Nos. **NOTE:** The details of above tenders are available on **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in** **CORRIGENDUM NOTICE :- 9. Bid No.** E-31, **Tender No.** 10251233 Developmental Tender for CON ROD ASM-FORK **Revision** 01 **Details of Corrigendum** This Tender opened on **12/09/2025** instead of **26/09/2025 10. Bid No.** E-31, **Tender No.** 10251234 Developmental Tender for CONNECTING ROD-BLADE **Revision** 01 **Details of Corrigendum** This Tender opened on **15/09/2025** instead of **30/09/2025 11. Tender No.** 04251104 **Bid No.** E-30/2025-26 **Rev.** 01 **Existing due Date** 26/09/2025 **Revise due Date** 15/10/2025 **Note:** All other terms & condition shall remain unchanged **Note:-** The details of above Tenders are available on website **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in**

PRO/BLW/S-37 Principal Chief Material Manager

/blwvaranasi" Website:- www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client proposes to purchase the Schedule Property from **Ramesh Reddy.M., S/o.Venkata Krishna Reddy,** Aged about 62 years, Residing at No.5/125, Thurpu Street, Gudur, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh-524101, and I am investigating the title of the Schedule Property.

Any person/s having any manner of claims/objections for the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property, may lodge their claim/s, objection/s, with the undersigned, with documentary evidence **within Seven (07) days** from the date of this publication. Any claims/ objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/ objections.

SCHEDULE - PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy.No.22, measuring 2.00 Acres 28 Guntas, or 117612 Sq.ft, or 10926 Sq.meters out of 130680.00789 Square Feet or 12140.57 Square Meters, situated at Nellukunte Village (Chokkanahalli), Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, having Village Panchayath Katha No.116/22, Thippuru Gram Panchayathi E-Swathu/Katha bearing PID No.150300300100920195, which is converted from agriculture to non-agricultural residential purposes by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Doddaballapura Sub Division, Bangalore, dated 21.04.1997, vide Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN.SR.(DB).18/1996-97, including all rights, privileges and appurtenances there to and bounded on the:- **East by:** Remaining portion in Sy.No.22 retained by the Seller **West by:** Sy.No.32; **North by:** Sy.No.23/3 and 25/4, **South by:** Sy.No.21/1 (belonging to Ramesh.G.Patel) and 21/3.

Y.S.H.Reddy, Advocate
No.503, 1st Floor, Sai Leela Suites, 1st Main, 7th Cross, H.M.T.Layout, Parallel to 80 Feet Road, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru- 560 032. Mobile: 98863 78570.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, M Dhiraj, S/O Mangilal, aged about 55 years, residing at #1/1, Munshi Akbar Hussain Road, Near Ghousia Hospital, Tasker Town, Bangalore North, Bangalore Karnataka 560051, have changed my name from M Dhiraj to Dhiraj Kumar vide affidavit dated 13-09-2025 sworn to before notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

REAL ESTATE

BRIGADE CORNERSTONE Utopia (Varthur rd – whitefiled) – Studio flat – 510 sqft no:7548888769

LEGAL NOTICE

Before the Hon'ble District Court
Kalpetta, Wayanad
AS 10/2024

Gracykutty and others: Appellants
And
Benny.S.K, aged 50 years
S/o.Salomi Mathew, Salom House, Bangalore South Church (Cross-57) 1st Floor, 6th Cross, Payi-Layout, Hoolimavu Main Road, Bangalore, Pin-560076, Karnataka: Respondent

That the above appeal is posted to 03.10.2025 for the appearance of the respondent. Otherwise he will be set exparte by the Hon'ble Court.

(Sd/-) **M.O.Thomas**
Advocate for the appellants

TENDERS

Prasad V Potluri Siddhartha Institute of Technology
Kanuru,Vijayawada-520 007, Andhra Pradesh,India

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed/Online tenders are invited for the supply, installation, and commissioning of **AICTE IDEA Lab** at our institute.

For Details Visit
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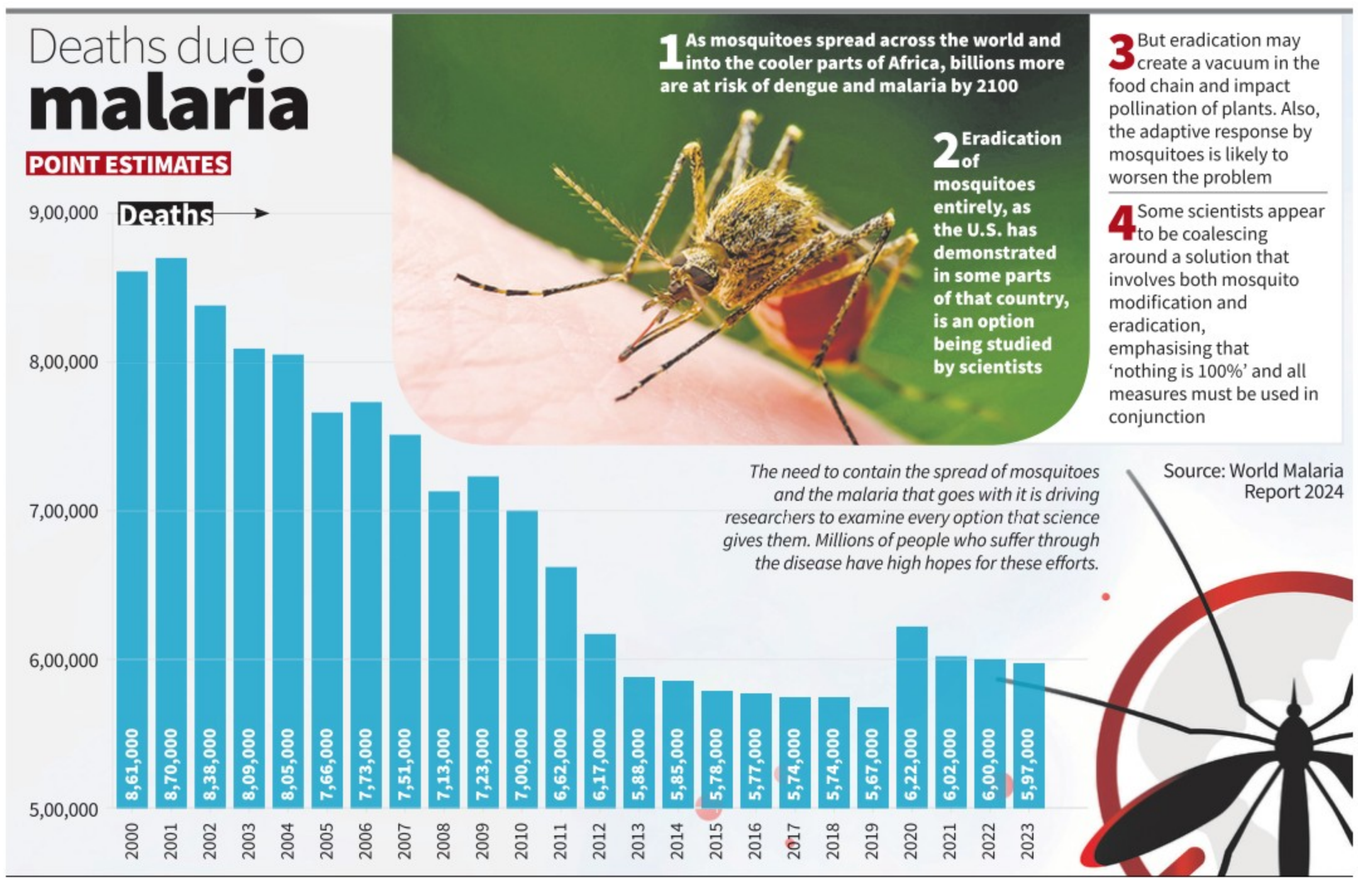
Contact: 9490856188

Deadline: September 24,2025

Mosquitoes suck – but should we simply get rid of them?

Scientists previously believed that as the world got hotter, mosquitoes might be forced to move to cooler areas. But it seems they can keep pace with a changing climate, so populations may actually expand. In such a world, does it make sense to try and wipe out some mosquitoes altogether?

Rohini Subrahmanyam



The U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) calls mosquitoes the "world's deadliest animals." They have good reason. Small, annoying but dangerous: this disease-carrying insect helps kill more than a million people in the world every year.

Now, as the world becomes warmer, their domain could be expanding. Previously, mosquitoes were only a concern in the warmer, tropical areas of the world. But now, malaria cases in the U.S. are on the rise, as are the number of warm and humid days when the insects can thrive.

Mosquitoes can adapt

Anopheles mosquitoes, which spread malaria, are spreading into cooler and drier parts of the African continent. A London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine study warned that if the current rate of emissions continues, billions more people will be at risk of dengue and malaria by 2100.

Mosquitoes can also adapt to higher temperatures. A team of University of California Berkeley scientists reported on January 7 that mosquitoes had natural variations in their genes that helped them tolerate heat better. "This paper found that mosquitoes might have the ability to respond to warming temperatures, rather than just being static players and just taking it and dying," said Dr. Lisa Couper, an environmental health scientist at Stanford University and lead author of the paper.

Scientists previously believed that as some parts of the world got hotter, mosquitoes might be forced to move to cooler areas, shifting the populations of the mosquitoes. But if they can keep pace with the changing climate, mosquito populations may actually expand their territories even further.

Against the backdrop of a world increasingly in the clutches of mosquito-borne diseases, does it make sense for scientists to try and wipe out some mosquitoes altogether, especially the ones that spread diseases?

Molecular biologists, environmental health scientists, and mosquito ecologists are all united by the goal to reduce the deadly impact of mosquitoes in our world – yet each group has varying takes on the topic of eradicating them altogether.

Steering clear of extremes

"There are over 3,000 species of mosquitoes," Dr. Couper said. "If we just target the few species that are vectors for human disease, like the ones that [carry] dengue and malaria, [or] West Nile virus for example, I don't think that there's major ecological harm that comes from eliminating those."

Getting rid of all the mosquitoes could have ecological ramifications, as some of them may be plant pollinators or their larvae could be food to small fish. Of the 3,000+ species of mosquitoes, eradicating some could affect the delicate balance of certain food chains. But the ones that spread disease may not even have a major role to play in pollination.

Mosquito eradication also need not be permanent, according to Dr. Andrea Smidler, a molecular biologist working on genetic engineering in mosquitoes at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD).

In the 1930s, the U.S. used to have cases of malaria. But federal relief organisations took aggressive mosquito control and malaria prevention steps – improving drainage, eliminating breeding grounds, and spraying insecticides like DDT – until the disease was eliminated from the country in 1951. The *Anopheles* mosquitoes were temporarily eradicated or at least brought down to such low levels that they couldn't spread the disease.

Later, however, there were mosquitoes that could transmit malaria again. "But when there's a malaria case, the CDC comes in and wipes out the mosquito locally and eliminates transmission," Dr. Smidler explained. "It's probably too difficult to expect [eradication] to be permanent, right?"

'Their one job in life...'

Some scientists believe using only insecticides to eradicate mosquitoes is futile because of how adaptable they are. "Eradicating mosquitoes is similar to killing bacteria with antibiotics," Dr. Marcelo Jacobs-Lorena, an entomologist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Maryland, the US, said. "It works very well in the beginning [but] gradually the bacteria become resistant to the antibiotics, and that's exactly what's happening with the mosquitoes."

He referred to a graph in the 2024 WHO Malaria Report, which shows how malaria-induced deaths worldwide dropped by nearly half from 2000 to 2015. "But from 2015 to present, there is no change. It stopped declining ... because mosquitoes become resistant."

Insecticides like DDT also wrought significant environmental harm. A 1962 book called *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson documented how DDT caused birds to lay eggs without shells.

Enter chemical-free, species-specific elimination methods like the sterile insect technique. The idea was to sterilise the male mosquitoes of a specific species and release hundreds of them back into the population.

"The males are literally flying penises in these insect systems: they don't bite; they don't spread disease; their one job in life is to find a female and mate with her," Dr. Smidler said. "In mosquitoes, it's only females that bite and spread disease."

When a normal female mates with one of the sterile males, they won't produce any viable offspring. So briefly flooding the population with sterile males can lead to a population crash, a method that scientists have previously used to eliminate pests like the screw-worm fly (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*).

Frying pan or fire?

But traditional methods to sterilise the male flies involves irradiating their reproductive organs with X-rays, which leads to many males dying as well.

Some scientists are developing precision-guided sterile male techniques to further optimise the strategy. Using CRISPR-Cas9 methods to specifically target genes that affect fertility, Dr. Smidler and her colleagues in Dr. Omar Akbari's lab at UCSD are trying to create genetically modified sterile males. They also aim to target genes that cause "femaleness," such that all offspring end up being males.

The WHO also encourages research on genetically modified mosquitoes – as long as scientists are "supported by clear governance mechanisms to evaluate the health, environmental and ecological implications," according to a 2020 position statement.

Additionally, scientists are repurposing existing drugs to be used as mosquito-killers. A team of scientists at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine investigated the use of nitisinone, an FDA-approved drug that is taken by patients with rare metabolic disorders. They discovered that drinking blood containing the drug was lethal to the malaria-causing *Anopheles gambiae,* as it acts by blocking a key enzyme the mosquitoes rely on for digesting their blood meals. Nitisinone outperformed another mosquitocidal drug ivermectin and even killed insecticide-resistant mosquitoes.

> We should continue treating people to eliminate the reservoir, we should also continue killing mosquitoes. It's important not to rely on one approach but to combine every approach
>
> **DR. MARCELO JACOBS-LORENA**
> JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, MARYLAND

However, Dr. Phil Lounibos, a mosquito ecologist at the University of Florida, said that mosquito reduction or eradication may not be the most prudent way forward to curb diseases. He pointed out that even if one species is locally removed, another, potentially more dangerous species could quickly move into the area – or the same species could reinvade as well.

"The chances of actually getting rid of many of these vector species is relatively challenging: not only do they reproduce very fast, many of them are species that have been skilled in invading new environments," he said.

"Even if a project aimed at mosquito reduction is successful locally, you're going to need to set up a laboratory skilled at producing more of the modified mosquitoes that are used in the reduction efforts," Dr. Lounibos added.

'Nothing is 100%'

Dr. Scott O' Neill, founder and CEO of the World Mosquito Program non-profit, figured out a way to curb disease spread without eliminating mosquitoes altogether. He and his team discovered that *Wolbachia*, a naturally occurring bacteria in some insects, protected these insects from viral infections. They transferred *Wolbachia* into *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes and realised that the bacteria prevented dengue viruses from growing inside the mosquitoes. It could also be used to target chikungunya, yellow fever, and Zika viruses.

When they bred and released these *Wolbachia* mosquitoes locally in some places in Australia, Brazil, Colombia, and other countries, the modified mosquitoes could not transmit viruses as much, leading to a reduced spread of dengue. The bacteria can also pass down generations in mosquitoes, making it a more sustainable disease control method. In the Australian regions where Dr. O' Neill first deployed it, team members were even able to show that dengue transmission had completely stopped. "It is mosquito modification as opposed to mosquito reduction, and I still feel that this is potentially a much more powerful tool," Dr. Lounibos said.

There was one drawback. Unlike *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes that spread viruses, *Anopheles* mosquitoes spread a parasite called *Plasmodium* – which causes malaria – and *Wolbachia* didn't seem to work well in these mosquitoes. But then, GlaxoSmithKline researchers stumbled upon a bacterium that seemed to prevent *Plasmodium* infections in their *Anopheles* mosquitoes. They reached out to Dr. Lorena for help.

Dr. Lorena and his colleagues found that this bacterium secreted a toxic product called harmane that could block *Plasmodium* parasites from developing in the mosquito gut. Just like Wolbachia in *Aedes aegypti*, this bacterium could "cure" *Anopheles* mosquitoes of the *Plasmodium* parasite, preventing them from carrying malaria. "The [bacteria method] does not rely on killing mosquitoes. So every mosquito becomes resistant. They continue to bite people but without transmitting the disease," Dr. Lorena said.

Dr. Lorena and his team had also previously discovered a different bacterium that prevented *Plasmodium* infections in mosquitoes. This one had the advantage of being able to spread across mosquitoes more easily, passing down mosquito generations via the female's eggs and being sexually transmitted from males to females. In the next steps, the scientists aim to test these methods extensively in wild *Anopheles* populations.

But Dr. Lorena doesn't support the idea of stopping the killing of mosquitoes altogether. "Nothing is 100%," he said. "What we envision is these bacteria being a new tool that's added to all the existing tools."

According to him, these different strategies should all be used together to stop mosquitoes from spreading diseases like malaria. Even the act of eradicating mosquitoes–like the other tools–need not be the ultimate goal, but just another cog in the wheel moving towards ridding the world of mosquito-borne diseases.

"We should continue treating people with malaria to eliminate the reservoir, we should continue killing the mosquitoes as well as we can–even though it's getting less effective. We are now gradually introducing vaccines. What's extremely important is not to rely on only one approach but to combine every single approach together," he advised.

(Rohini Subrahmanyam is a freelance journalist in Bengaluru. roh.subb@gmail.com)

Scientists recommend that existing prevention and eradication measures be continued. PTI

The vaccine was developed by the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. AP

Australia approves first vaccine to save koalas from chlamydia

Associated Press

A regulator has approved the world's first vaccine to protect koalas from chlamydia infections, which are causing infertility and death in the iconic native species that is listed as endangered in parts of Australia.

The single-dose vaccine was developed by the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland state after more than a decade of research led by professor of microbiology Peter Timms.

The research showed the vaccine reduced the likelihood of koalas developing symptoms of chlamydia during breeding age and decreased mortality from the disease in wild populations by at least 65%.

The recent approval by Australia's veterinary medicine regulator means the vaccine can now be used in wildlife hospitals, veterinary clinics, and in the field to protect the nation's most at-risk koalas, Timms said.

"We knew a single-dose vaccine – with no need for a booster – was the answer to reducing the rapid, devastating spread of this disease, which accounts for as much as half of koala deaths across all wild populations in Australia," Timms said in a statement.

"Some individual colonies are edging closer to local extinction every day, particularly in southeast Queensland and New South Wales, where infection rates within populations are often around 50% and in some cases can reach as high as 70%," Timms added.

Deborah Tabart, chair of the conservation charity Australian Koala Foundation, said resources being spent on vaccinating koalas should be redirected at saving koala habitat.

"At the risk of sounding flippant, how can anyone be so delusional as to think that you can vaccinate 100,000 animals? It's just ridiculous," Tabart said.

Some colonies are edging closer to local extinction, particularly in southeast Queensland and New South Wales, where infection rates are around 50% and can reach as high as 70%

Tabart's foundation estimates there are fewer than 100,000 koalas in the wild. The government-backed National Koala Monitoring Program estimated last year there were between 224,000 and 524,000 koalas.

"I accept that chlamydia is an issue for koalas, but I also want people to understand that they're sick because they haven't got any habitat," Tabart said.

The Queensland Conservation Council, an umbrella organisation for more than 50 environmental groups across the state, welcomed the vaccine. But the council's director, Dave Copeman, echoed Tabart's focus on preserving koala habitat.

"It's really good news. Chlamydia is one of the key stresses that has been putting pressure on koala populations," Copeman said.

"Koalas were at risk before chlamydia outbreaks, and they will remain at risk even if we manage chlamydia perfectly, because we keep on destroying their habitat," he added.

Koalas are listed as endangered species in the states of Queensland and New South Wales and in the Australian Capital Territory, with habitat loss due to wildfires and urban expansion as the major threats. Chlamydia can cause urinary tract infections, infertility, blindness and death.

Treatment with antibiotics can disrupt an infected koala's ability to digest eucalyptus leaves – its sole food source – leading to starvation, the university said in a statement. The research has been supported by the federal, New South Wales and Queensland governments.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Congress sets up committee to fight civic elections

This comes days after the party put a Minister in charge of each of the five corporations in the city; meanwhile, BJP, JD(S) up the ante and criticise the ruling Congress of making Bengaluru 'a mess'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an indication that the State government will soon hold civic polls in Bengaluru, the Congress has formed a committee of all MLAs, MLCs, and defeated candidates in Assembly and Lok Sabha polls in the city to prepare the party for civic polls.

This comes days after the party put a Minister in charge of each of the five corporations in the city.

Taking cue, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Janata Dal (Secular) have upped the ante, criticising the ruling Congress of making Bengaluru "a mess" and arguing none of the promised big projects had indeed taken off. They have been opposing the multiple corporation set-up, and the BJP has announced that it will move the court against the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024.

The Congress has formed a committee of all MLAs, and MLCs, among others to prepare the party for civic polls. FILE PHOTO

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, also the Congress party chief in the State, has repeatedly asked his party workers to prepare for the civic polls. He recently said that the delimitation of wards will be notified by November 1, and the reservation matrix by November 30, and after that, it will be up to the State Election Commission to schedule elections in Bengaluru.

While the State government has committed before the court to holding civic polls by the end of this year, multiple sources in the party and the government said that elections were likely in early 2026 and unlikely before that.

This September 20 will mark five years, a full term, of the city not having an elected council.

The tenure of the last council ended on September 20, 2020, and the city has since then been under administrator rule.

Congress campaign

In the run-up to civic polls, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently granted over ₹1,000 crore for road repair and other developmental works in the city.

A majority of this has been earmarked for Assembly constituencies represented by the Congress.

Despite the ongoing monsoon, the ruling party has ensured that several civic works, like re-asphalting of roads, white-topping of roads, cleaning of shoulder drains, storm-water drain (SWD), and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) works, are being carried out. Cleanliness drives, frequent storm-water drain clearances, white-topping works, and footpath improvements are under way.

The government launched several key initiatives recently keeping the polls in mind.

N.A. Haris, Congress leader and MLA for Shanthinagar, told *The Hindu* that the party has already drawn up a plan of preliminary tasks. "Primarily, a large number of voters' names have been deleted from the rolls, and we must ensure they are added back. These deletions were deliberate, so restoring them is a priority," he said.

He added that general preparations are under way, such as identifying party workers and potential leaders, which will gather pace in the coming months.

On their part, the BJP and JD(S) too have launched an aggressive campaign against the ruling party, accusing Congress of doing "precious little" to Bengaluru.

"None of the big-ticket projects that Mr. Shivakumar champions, claiming that the Congress government has been spearheading projects worth over ₹1 lakh crore for Bengaluru, have taken off yet. On the ground, there is confusion over the multiple corporations set up, and we think there is no consensus among the people on this, which will help us," said a senior BJP leader.

The JD(S) has begun targeting Congress in Bengaluru. At a recent convention in Yeshwantpur, Nikhil Kumaraswamy termed the scheme to convert B-Khata properties to A-Khata as a "money-making scam" and said the government had imposed a cess on garbage as well.

KIA ranked most punctual 'large' airport for second straight month

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has been ranked as the most punctual airport among large airports for the second consecutive month.

According to aviation analytics firm Cirium's OTP monthly report for airlines and airports, August 2025, KIA has been placed first in the on-time ranking. KIA's on-time departure during August was 91.26%. In July, it led the large airports category with an on-time departure of 92.35%.

According to the latest report, the airport served 106 routes with 38 airlines and the on-time arrival was 84.99% during the month of August. The report further stated that it tracked 95.98% of a total 21,740 flights at the airport and the average departure delay was 41.

The Chennai International Airport which held the second spot after KIA in the large airport category in July slipped to the fifth spot in August. Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport which occupied the fifth spot in July bagged the second spot in August.

Apart from these three airports, two more Indian airports featured in the list of top 20 airports in the large category. They are Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at the 13th and Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport occupying the 19th spot.

The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport occupied the 10th spot in July and Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport occupied the 14th spot.

In the medium airports category the Ahmedabad airport retained the fifth spot which it had occupied in July. In the small airports category Srinagar's Sheikh ul-Alam International Airport and the Pune International Airport which had occupied the 11th and 16th spots respectively in July did not make it to the top 20 list in August. Jaipur International Airport was the only Indian airport in this category as it occupied the 19th spot.

Each month, Cirium reviews the total number of flights in a given month for every airport globally in an ordered list, then looks at where the percentile demarcations fall.

The aviation analytics firm said that airports are selected based on a combination of factors like seats and actual gate departure coverage of 90% or better.

FKCCI to host Founder's Day celebrations today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) will host its Founder's Day on Monday, at 4 p.m. at the Sir M.V. Auditorium, FKCCI, K.G. Road. The event will also feature the Sir M.V. Memorial Award function.

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister will be the chief guest.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, SEP. 15	
RISE	06:09
SET	18:21
RISE	00:00
SET	13:29
TUESDAY, SEP. 16	
RISE	06:09
SET	18:20
RISE	01:02
SET	14:26
WEDNESDAY, SEP. 17	
RISE	06:09
SET	18:19
RISE	02:03
SET	15:18

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	24
Mysuru	30	19
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Selection Process and Results	November 2025
Classes Commence	January 2026

For details on selection process and to apply, please visit
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Sri D.K. Shivakumar
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of cases settled in Thane Lok Adalat

55,981 The National Lok Adalat held in Maharashtra's Thane district resolved more than 55,000 cases, awarding settlements worth ₹205 crore, an official from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) said on Sunday. PTI

Villages in U.P. deprived of State roadways bus service

12,200 Uttar Pradesh Transport Minister Daya Shankar Singh on Sunday said 12,200 villages that are currently deprived of State roadways bus service will be connected with public transport facilities in the next one year. PTI

Number of prisoners in Nepal re-arrested after escaping

3,723 The prisoners had escaped on September 9 due to the vandalism, arson and demonstration following the Gen-Z protests against corruption and a ban on various social media sites that forced Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli to resign. PTI

Cost of projects launched by Prime Minister in Assam

18,530 in ₹ crore. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched projects worth ₹18,530 crore in Assam. In Darrang district's Mangaldoi town, he laid foundation stones for three major projects with an investment of ₹6,300 crore. PTI

Passenger vehicles equipped with GPS-enabled VLTD

94,974 Nearly 95,000 passenger vehicles in Maharashtra are now fitted with GPS-enabled Vehicle Location Tracking Devices that allow real-time monitoring and SOS alert facilities, officials said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What do SC guidelines say on DNA?

Why did the Supreme Court intervene in DNA samples in criminal cases? What lapses did the court uncover? What has the court said about DNA reliability in past rulings? What do the new guidelines mandate? Is DNA alone enough to convict?

EXPLAINER

R.K.Vij

The story so far:

The Supreme Court, in *Kattavellai @ Devakar v. State of Tamil Nadu,* recently issued guidelines to maintain the integrity of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) samples in criminal cases. The court directed the Director Generals of Police of all States to prepare sample forms of the Chain of Custody Register and all other necessary documentation as directed, and to ensure their dispatch to all districts with instructions.

What was the need to issue such directions?

The court, in the above case involving rape, murder, and robbery with an attempt to cause death, found significant unexplained delays in sending samples of the vaginal swabs to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for DNA analysis. Moreover, the chain of custody of the sample could not be established. Under such circumstances, the court held that the possibility of sample contamination could not be ruled out.

The court observed that although some guidelines have been issued by various bodies, there is neither uniformity nor a common procedure required to be followed by all investigating authorities. Even though 'Police' and 'Public Order' are subjects mentioned in the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the Supreme Court deemed it necessary to issue these guidelines to have uniformity of procedure.

What are the guidelines?

The Supreme Court issued four guidelines for cases where DNA evidence is involved. The first guideline states that the collection of DNA samples once made after due care and swift and appropriate packaging, including FIR number and date, the sections and statutes involved, details of the investigating officer, the police station, and the requisite serial number, shall be duly documented. The document recording the collection must include the signatures and designations of the medical professional present, the investigating officer, and independent witnesses.

DNA is a molecule that encodes the genetic information in all living organisms. GETTY IMAGES

Second, the investigating officer shall be responsible for the transportation of the DNA evidence (sample) to the concerned police station or hospital, as the case may be. He must also ensure that the samples reach the concerned FSL within 48 hours of collection. In the event of any delay, the reasons must be recorded, and all efforts should be made to preserve the samples.

Third, while samples are stored pending trial or appeal, no package shall be opened, altered, or resealed without express authorisation from the trial court.

The fourth guideline states that from the time of collection to the logical end, i.e., conviction or acquittal of the accused, a Chain of Custody Register must be maintained. This register must be appended to the trial court record. The investigating officer is responsible for explaining any lapses in compliance.

What has the Supreme Court said so far?

The DNA profiles have a tremendous impact on criminal investigations. In *Anil v. State of Maharashtra* (2014), the Supreme Court observed that a DNA profile is valid and reliable, but this depends on quality control and procedure in the laboratory. However, in the *Devakar* case, the court said that quality control and procedure outside the laboratory are equally important to ensure that the best results can be derived from collected samples.

In a three-judge Bench decision in *Manoj and Ors. v. State of Madhya Pradesh* (2022), the Supreme Court rejected a DNA report on the ground that recovery was made 'from an open area and the likelihood of its contamination cannot be ruled out'. It was also observed that the blood stains found on the articles were disintegrated, and the quantity was insufficient to run any classification test.

In another case, *Rahul v. State of Delhi, Ministry of Home Affairs* (2022), DNA evidence was 'rejected because it remained in the police Malkhana for two months and during such time, the possibility of tampering could not be ruled out'. It was said that 'the collection and sealing of the samples sent for examination were not free from suspicion'. The court also said the trial court and the High Court did not examine the underlying basis of the findings in the DNA reports or whether the techniques used had been reliably applied by the concerned expert.

Therefore, while the investigating agency needs to ensure that samples are collected properly, without any possibility of contamination, and sent to the FSL without any (unexplained) delay, the expert must also ensure proper quality control and procedure in the FSL.

How important is the DNA evidence in criminal cases?

DNA is a molecule that encodes the genetic information in all living organisms. It can be obtained from biological materials, such as bone, blood, semen, saliva, hair, or skin. Generally, when the DNA profile of a sample found at a crime scene matches the DNA profile of a suspect, it can be concluded that both samples have the same biological origin. However, it is not substantive evidence in criminal cases.

The Supreme Court, in the *Devakar* case, stated that DNA evidence is in the nature of opinion evidence as envisaged under Section 45 of the Evidence Act (Section 39 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023), and like any other opinion evidence, its probative value varies from case to case. Therefore, DNA evidence must be proved scientifically and legally.

R.K. Vij is a former IPS officer

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court has issued uniform guidelines to ensure the integrity of DNA samples in criminal cases, directing strict documentation, swift transfer, and a clear chain of custody.
- Past rulings show that lapses in handling have led to DNA reports being rejected, making both proper collection and quality control essential.

How serious is the global plastic pollution crisis?

What role should governments and individuals play in curbing plastic use?

Prakash Nelliyat

The story so far:

Rapidly increasing plastic pollution is a serious global environmental issue as it significantly impacts ecosystems, their functions, sustainable development, and ultimately the socio-economic and health dimensions of humanity. With this realisation, this year's World Environment Day (June 5) focused on "Ending Plastic Pollution" and encouraging worldwide awareness and action against it.

How serious is the issue?

The OECD's 'Global Plastic Outlook' reveals that global plastic consumption has increased significantly due to the growth of emerging economies and markets. Plastics production doubled from 2000 to 2019, reaching 460 million tonnes, while waste generation grew to 353 million tonnes. Nearly two-thirds of plastic waste has a lifespan of less than five years, with 40% coming from packaging, 12% from consumer goods, and 11% from clothing and textiles. Among this waste, only 9% is recycled. Another 19% is incinerated, 50% ends up in landfills, and 22% evades waste management systems, often entering uncontrolled dumpsites, being burned in pits, or ending up in terrestrial or aquatic environments, especially in poorer countries.

According to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, in 2024 alone, 500 million tonnes of plastic were produced or used, generating around 400 million tonnes of waste. If the current trends continue, global plastic waste could almost triple by 2060, reaching 1.2 billion tonnes.

The Ocean Conservancy data reveal that each year, 11 million tonnes of plastic enter the ocean, in addition to the estimated 200 million tonnes that already flow through our marine environment. According to a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) expert, if the current rate of plastic production and waste generation continues, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by the mid-century.

Why is plastic pollution such a grave problem?

The non-biodegradable character of plastics is a serious challenge. It simply breaks into smaller and smaller pieces over time, creating micro- and nano-plastics that infiltrate and contaminate every part of the planet, from the summit of Mount Everest to the depths of the oceans. Plastics account for 3.4% of global greenhouse gas emissions. UNEP has stated that plastic production, use, and disposal could account for 19% of the total global carbon budget by 2040.

What remedies are being proposed?

At the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (2022), all 193 UN member states agreed to end plastic pollution through a legally binding international agreement. This is critical to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including climate action, sustainable consumption and production, protection of oceans, and the restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity. UNEP's ambitious goal of reducing plastic waste by 80% within two decades requires serious action and international cooperation, innovation, better product design, and environment-friendly alternatives, as well as efforts to improve waste management and increase recycling.

As plastics and their chemical additives are primarily made from petrochemical feedstock, limiting their production and eliminating unnecessary items, especially single-use plastics, is urgent. Governments should permit production only within existing legal frameworks.

Most plastics used today are virgin (primary) plastics, while global production of recycled (secondary) plastics is only 6%. Improving recycling technologies and building profitable markets for recycled plastics are crucial.

Imposing landfill and incineration taxes can incentivise recycling. Extended Producer Responsibility schemes, landfill taxes, deposit refunds, and pay-as-you-throw systems need to be introduced.

Finally, people must adopt greener alternatives that have been used in the past. The media, too, has a significant role to play in shaping awareness.

Prakash Nelliyat is Former Fellow, Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law at the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai, and the co-author of the books: 'Biodiversity Conservation through Access and Benefit Sharing' and 'Biodiversity and Business'

THE GIST

- Plastic pollution is a serious global environmental issue that significantly impacts ecosystems, sustainable development, and human health, with rapidly increasing production and waste threatening oceans and the climate.
- Addressing the crisis requires urgent international action, improved recycling, limiting production of unnecessary plastics, and responsible behaviour by individuals and governments.

Keep politics aside and join hands with Centre for development, Deve Gowda tells State govt.

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda has appealed to the State government to keep aside politics and join hands with the Centre for development.

He stressed the need for expanding the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor project up to Mangaluru, which then would help many districts, including Hassan.

In a press conference in Hassan on Sunday, Mr. Deve Gowda said: "I wish the State government takes up this proposal with the Centre, so that it is included in the next Budget. I will also make efforts in this regard at the Centre."

The former Prime Minister said that in his 65-year-long political career, he had worked for the development of the State.

"We should not do politics over development of the State. Let us do politics at the time of elections. I don't want to get into history. Earlier, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and I worked together. Now, we are not together. I will not get into those differences. I wish to bring to the notice of the State government that if the corridor is expanded, Hassan will get benefits. Compared to other districts, Hassan lags behind. While other districts got an airport, Hassan has not yet got one," he stated.

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda visiting the spot at Mosale Hosahalli in Hassan taluk on Sunday, where 10 people died in an accident on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Deve Gowda said his son and Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy wanted to revive HMT in Bengaluru and the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISL) in Bhadravati.

"He wants to build a factory on HMT land and proposed to invest ₹20,000 to revive VISL in Bhadravati. The State government should cooperate with him, keeping aside all differences," he said.

Regarding Shiradi Ghat, Mr. Deve Gowda said that when Oscar Fernandes was the Transport Minister, he had proposed to take up the tunnel project.

"There was opposition to giving forest land for the project. Once the tunnel is constructed, trees can be grown above the tunnel. The project should be taken up," he stated.

On the Cauvery dispute, Mr. Deve Gowda said that he had brought it to the notice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on how Tamil Nadu benefited and Karnataka suffered with regard to the sharing of the Cauvery waters.

"The tribunal allocated the Cauvery waters to Bengaluru considering the population of the city as per the 1981 Census. Then the population was around 90 lakh and now it is above 1.5 crore," he noted.

Further, he maintained that he would continue to fight for the development of the State, despite his age. "At 93, I came here with the help of a wheelchair. Similarly, I will go to Parliament on a wheelchair and continue to work for the State. My term as Rajya Sabha member ends in the next 11 months. However, I will continue to work and will not retire," he added.

Legislator Swaroop Prakash, former MLA K.S. Lingesh, and others were present.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Deve Gowda visited Mosale Hosahalli in Hassan, where an accident occurred on Friday.

He also met the family members of Gokul, Eshwar, Prabhakar, Praveen, and Kumar, who were among those who died in the accident. As many as 10 people died in the tragic incident.

Back-channel talks on with nomadic tribes over internal quota protest

The State government is also mulling over a comprehensive special package for the microscopic communities, say sources

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Back-channel parleys are being held between the State government and the leaders of nomadic and semi-nomadic castes to convince them to withdraw their protest.

Their outcry began after the State government decided to alter the recommendations of the one-man commission headed by retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das on internal reservation matrix.

While the commission had given a 1% reservation to Category A, comprising 59 castes, including 49 microscopic castes, and a population of approximately 5 lakh, the State government scrapped the category and merged it with the relatively well-off Korma, Korcha, Lambani, and Bhovi castes, drawing the ire of activists.

Since then, leaders of nomadic and semi-nomadic castes have been sitting in protest at Freedom Park here, even as Dalit Cabinet Ministers hold talks to end the it.

The protest began on August 19 – the day the Cabinet decided to modify the commission's recommendations. The community leaders decided to continue their protest until a 1% reservation is provided.

A file photo of an enumerator collecting data on a hand-held device as part of the Statewide Caste Census for Scheduled Castes sub-caste demographics.

"We have decided to continue with the protest until our demands are met. Korcha and Korma communities should also be removed from the nomadic and semi-nomadic cell. These demands are long pending," said Basavaraj Kowthal, the convener of Federation for Social Justice for Scheduled Castes, which is staging the protest. Those in the know of developments say that, besides the Ministers convening meetings, the government is mulling over a comprehensive special package for the microscopic communities, which would include financial assistance, employment opportunities, special schools, housing, and the provision of land, among other benefits. These are expected to be announced by the government over the next few weeks.

However, the activists are adamant about the 1% reservation provided based on backwardness – a key criterion laid down by the Supreme Court. The government's decision to include the touchable castes among the Scheduled Castes – Lambani, Bhovi, Korma, and Korcha – has also drawn flak as a "political decision" and is being termed as "competition among unequals".

Many of the castes whose population is in double and triple digits have not had any representation in public employment or have been beneficiaries of reservations in education. Their political representation has been limited, and they have remained socially, economically, and educationally backwards.

An increase in the reservation for the Scheduled Castes to 18% from the current 17%, which would be commensurate with their population and allocate 1% to nomadic and semi-nomadic castes, is another suggestion made to the government.

Increasing the quota for SCs is learnt to have been a suggestion made by Mr. Das when he submitted the report to increase the reservation quota for scheduled castes from 15% to 17% and Scheduled Tribes from 3% to 7%, which was accepted by the government. However, Mr. Kowthal felt that this would be a long-drawn process and could be accomplished after the establishment of a permanent commission for Scheduled Castes, as announced by the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

"They miss out on government benefits or permanent employment due to the nomadic nature of moving from place to place. The merging of 'most backward' castes with 'less backward' castes has been unfair. Supreme Court judgement speaks of competition between equals, but this government has set up competition between unequals," said R.V. Chandrashekar, research assistant at National Law School of India University, with research experience on nomadic communities.

Experts are concerned about the threat of legal intervention on the internal reservation approved, as they believe that the government's decision contradicts the principles of backwardness established by the court. The confusion over how internal reservation will be implemented for Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida and Adi Andhra has not been set right adding to the problem, he pointed out.

Citing corruption, unregulated growth, citizens petition to bring panchayat areas under Town Planning Act

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Landowners are not compensated for their loss, even as panchayat-led projects proceed without adhering to the statutory rules, they say

A group of citizens from Davangere and other districts has submitted a petition to the State government demanding that all panchayat-administered areas be brought under the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (KTCP) Act, 1961.

The petition argues that the exclusion of areas governed by gram panchayats from the ambit of the Act has created a statutory gap, leading to unregulated growth, corruption, and lack of accountability in rural and semi-urban regions. The citizens highlight the plight of agricultural landowners, who are required under the Act to surrender 45% of their land free of cost to the government while converting farmland into layouts. Calling this provision unjust, the petition, filed by Manu Mark Imam from Davangere, noted that landowners are not compensated for their loss, even as panchayat-led projects proceed without adhering to the same statutory rules.

Another major concern raised in the petition is the absence of a clear redressal mechanism for housing-related grievances in panchayat areas.

The petition mentions that the citizens face issues such as wrongful property entries, unauthorised houses without valid title deeds, fraudulent allotments, and misuse of housing schemes. Currently, aggrieved citizens must approach multiple authorities, often receiving conflicting decisions.

With no single nodal body, no binding timelines, and no dedicated appellate forum, the process remains opaque and burdensome for the public, Mr. Imam pointed in his petition.

To address these gaps, the petition proposes several statutory remedies. It calls for an amendment to the KTCP Act, 1961 to explicitly classify panchayat-administered regions as "Local Planning Areas" with Panchayat Development Officers designated as planning authorities. These officers, the petition argues, should be mandated to prepare Master Plans within two years of notification, ensuring orderly development in rural and semi-urban Karnataka.

The petition further recommends the creation of a Housing Grievance Redressal Authority with quasi-judicial powers to adjudicate layout fraud, housing scheme irregularities, and illegal documentation.

It also seeks to strengthen the powers of the Lokayukta to cancel illegal layouts or order planning corrections in cases of corruption or maladministration. In addition, it urges the government to assign clear statutory responsibilities to Taluk Panchayat Executive Officers and Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officers, holding them accountable for implementing planning laws within their jurisdictions.

The citizens have requested that the government ensure all Rural Development and Panchayat Raj projects strictly conform to approved Master Plans and zoning regulations, and have called for the establishment of joint planning boards between urban development authorities and panchayat bodies to improve coordination and close the statutory gap.

20 experts appointed to policy and planning panel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Twenty experts from various fields have been appointed as members to the Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission.They are: Niranjanaradhya, A. Narayana, Srilatharao Sheshadri, V. Gayathri, T.N. Prakash Kammaradi, Mythreyi Krishnan, Madhubhushan, Nagesh Hegde, Pratap Hegde, Harish Hande, V.S. Prakash, Manjunath H., Narendra Pani, Sangitha M.K., T.R. Chandrashekharaiah, Razak Ustad H., Mukund Belagali, B.H. Nagur, Mohandas Hegde, and Alibaba. In addition, the commission will also have four official members - Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner, Additional Chief Secretaries to the Departments of Finance and Planning.

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E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
(Through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only)

Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited (KSHDCL) invites proposals from Zonal/Regional/ Head Offices of Scheduled Public Sector Banks to participate in an e-auction for offering the most competitive interest rate for investment of the Corporation's surplus funds in a 1-year callable Fixed Deposit. The e-auction will be conducted exclusively through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Start Date for Accessing the E-Portal: 15.09.2025, Pre-Bid meeting: 20.09.2025, Last Date and Time for Submission of Bids: 08.10.2025** and **Live Bidding: 13.10.2025** up to **4:00 PM**
For further details, Contact: **General Manager (Finance),** KSHDCL, No. 45, 3rd Floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru–560001.

Sd/- Managing Director

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/Tr(O)Z/TKR/SEE/AEE-2/2025-26/6721-22 Date: 11.09.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bid against **Enquiry No:** KPTCL/CEE/TR(O)Z/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/Bid Enq-0014 Dated: 29.04.2025. **Call-3.** for Replacement of age old of Bus-2 Pentagraph Isolator of 400kV BTPS line by new Pentagraph Isolator **(Without Earth switch)** and Bus-1 Pentagraph Isolator of 400kV Beerenahalli Line-1 by new Pentagaraph Isolator **(With Earth switch)** at 400/220KV R/S **Guttur** on Total Turnkey basis including supply of all matching materials/equipments, including supply, erection, loading & unloading, transportation testing and commissioning.

The detailed information regarding subject enquiry in KPP Portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyper link 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 18.09.2025** and other details can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during Office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavana," 1st Floor, Tumakuru 66/11kV S/s Premises, Tumakuru – 572103

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT SHIVAMOGGA

R. A . No. 84 / 2025
Appellant : Sri. D B Rudragowda
V / s
Respondent: Sri. Shivananda C & others

R. A. No. 85 / 2025
Appellant : Sri. D B Rudragowda
V / s
Respondent: Hanumantappa & others

R. A. No. 86 / 2025
Appellant : Sri. D B Rudragowda
V / s
Respondent : Sri Khadar Iliyaz Khan & Others

R. A. No. 87 / 2025
Appellant : Sri. D B Rudragowda
V / s
Respondent: Smt. Anitha Basavarajaiah & Others

R. A. No. 88 / 2025
Appellant : Sri. D B Rudragowda
V / s
Respondent : Sri Nagaraj & Others

R. A. No. 89 / 2025
Appellant : Sri. D B Rudragowda
V / s
Respondent : Sri. Megharaj D & Others

2) JBJ City Developers (Karnataka) Private Limited.,
A Company registered under the provision of Companies act 1956, No.37 & 38. First Floor, 2nd Stage, Indira Nagar, Bengaluru. Represented by its Director Mr. Justin Devadoss @ David.

3) Mr. Justin Devadoss @ David,
S/o. I. D Issac, No. 448 / 8, C Block, Managing Director of JBJ City Developers Private Limited., 7th Street, Anna Nagara East, Chennai.

4) Mr. Manivannan Nagaraj,
S/o. P Nagarajan, Director of JBJ City (Karnataka) Pvt Ltd., R/at No. 21, 2nd Floor, Shankarappa Complex, Konena Agrahara Halli, Bengaluru.

PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas the above-named appellant D B Rudragowda, S/o. Basavanyappa has filed the above appeal challenging the judgment and decree passed by Prl. Civil Judge at Shivamogga in O.S. No. 209 / 2017, O.S. No. 214 / 2017, O.S. No. 211 / 2017, O.S. No. 212 /2017, O.S. No. 213 / 2017 & O.S. No. 210 / 2017 dated: 03.05.2025. As such, the appellant has preferred appeal before above Hon'ble Court. You all above named respondent No 2 to 4 despite efforts made to serve the appeal notice on you by registered post. But, you have successfully you evaded the same. Therefore, you are notice to appear before the hunter Court on 08 /10/ 2025 at 11:00 a.m. to answer the same failing which the above appeal will be decided in your options ex - parte.

By the order of the Court
Sd/- Sirastedar
In the Court of the Hon'ble II Addl. Senior Civil Judge, at Shivamogga.

Advocate for appellant :
G O Kumarswamy
Advocate,
Shivamogga.

Place : Shivamogga
Date : 11 - 09 -2025

CORRIDORS OF POWER

When footpaths vanish

Footpaths being non-existent is a common feature in Bengaluru. For example, in Govindarajnagar constituency in the city, one sees Nandini milk outlets and sundry street vendors occupying the footpath from M.C. Layout to Pattegarapalya Main Road. It not only causes inconvenience to pedestrians daily, but also impedes vehicle movement. Congress MLA Priya Krishna seems oblivious to this, while pedestrians have nearly forgotten the very concept of footpaths. A few years ago, former councilor K. Umesh Shetty had got footpaths laid in Govindarajnagar Main Road, but that is now history. With Bengaluru civic polls elections still far away and no councillors in place, people are hoping that the local MLA would sooner than later wake up and take cognisance of their plight.

Unenviable plight of scribes and CM

Journalists covering the 11th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) , India region conference, in Bengaluru, had to run from the Information Department to the State Secretariat to secure passes to cover the press conference on the last day, on Saturday. The Information Department said that only accredited journalists would be allowed to cover the press meet and the list of journalists covering the event was handed over to the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, which in turn issued passes. Journalists were told to mandatorily bring passes and accreditation cards. But after all that fuss, there was no scrutiny check or anyone around to look at the passes or accreditation cards at the event. This left journalists wondering why there was such elaborate protocol in the first place. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had to struggle to read his speech with poor lighting on the podium.

Double standards

Although the Ganesha Chaturthi festivities in Hubballi-Dharwad concluded peacefully, the hue and cry by BJP leaders over the ban on DJ sound systems after 10 p.m. continues. Even as Muslim organisations in the twin cities refrained from using DJ sound system during Id Milad, the BJP leaders continue to harp on the issue alleging that the government is "partisan" while implementing the Supreme Court's direction on ban on loudspeakers between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. During a press conference in Hubballi on Saturday, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi objected to the ban again. .
When a reporter pointed out to him that when the BJP was in power in the State, Mr. Joshi had himself made an appeal to Ganesha mandals to refrain from using DJs during the immersion processions, the he tried to justify his remark by saying the Congress government was keen on implementing rules only during Hindu festivals and alleged that it was not doing anything on the early morning azans.

Nagesh Prabhu
Girish Pattanashetti

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

BIRTH / DEATH
THE ANGEL MY SWEET HEART

16 - 09 - 1947 TUE

15 - 09 - 2006 FRI

Smt. L.BALAM (LAKSHMI)
(W/o. K.Lakshmanan, Retd. Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd.)

We miss you every moment
That smile, that kindness and your unconditional love for all,
Not a single moment passes by without thinking of you.

MAY HER SOUL CONTINUE TO REST IN PEACE
Fondly Remembered by:
Husband, Daughters, Sons-in-law & Grand Children

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
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Powering up: With this new silicon, Apple is clearly pushing up its performance and redefining what a smartphone can do when AI graphics are fused. REUTERS

Is Apple's A19 Pro chip a game changer for on-device AI performance?

With Neural Accelerators embedded right into GPU cores, Apple's A19 Pro integrates AI operations directly where graphics are being processed; this enables real-time AI effects, higher efficiency, and smooth performance for gaming, AR, computational photography, and local large language models

John Xavier

Apple claims that the A19 Pro chipset, paired with its Apple-designed vapour chamber, delivers up to 40% better sustained performance than the A18 Pro. That translates to smoother gaming, the capacity to edit heavier videos, and the ability to run local large language models (LLMs) efficiently. And at the heart of this leap are the Neural Accelerators embedded into each of the six GPU cores.

So, what are these neural accelerators, and what do they do? Neural Accelerators are specialised hardware units designed to perform the types of mathematical operations that AI models rely on, particularly matrix multiplications, at lightning-fast speeds with much greater energy efficiency than a CPU or general-purpose GPU. These operations form the foundation of deep learning tasks like image recognition, language translation, speech processing, and other tasks.

Redefining architectures

In traditional architectures, AI workloads were handled by a separate Neural Engine or AI processor that's distinct from the CPU and GPU. Data has to be transferred back and forth between components, which introduces latency and consumes power.

With Neural Accelerators embedded right into GPU cores, Apple's A19 Pro integrates AI operations directly where graphics are being processed.

This means games get real-time AI effects with hardware-accelerated ray tracing, while computational photography, AR, and local language models get the benefits of lower latency, higher efficiency, and sustained performance that the previous generation could not achieve. This can also allow developers to run smaller AI models on the device.

While the Neural Accelerators embedded in the GPU handle AI tasks in parallel with graphics, the 16-core Neural Engine is a powerful co-processor that oversees larger, more complex AI workloads that don't fit within a single graphics thread.

Apple's decision to embed Neural Accelerators into each GPU core and pair them with a powerful 16-core Neural Engine signals a shift toward hybrid computing, where AI and graphics are no longer separate tasks but intertwined operations. This architecture brings together efficiency, performance, and privacy – areas where competitors are either excelling in one dimension or trading off another.

A comparative view

Now, how does this compare to the architectures in the state-of-the-art smartphone chipsets that go into other flagship smartphones? Compared to Google's Tensor G5, which powers the Pixel 10, the difference is clear. Tensor G5's TPU cores are optimised for AI services such as Gemini Nano, Recorder, and live translation. This makes it excellent at delivering Google's software-driven AI features, but it is less capable when it comes to high-performance gaming or hybrid AI and graphics workloads. On the other hand, Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8 Elite, designed for flagship Android devices, pushes peak performance to the extreme.

With its Oryon CPU running up to 4.32 GHz, a new Adreno GPU supporting real-time ray tracing, and the Hexagon NPU for fused scalar, vector, and tensor operations, the Snapdragon 8 Elite excels at raw AI throughput and multimodal tasks like live video analysis and on-device generative AI. However, this level of performance comes at the cost of efficiency and thermal control, which can vary depending on the device manufacturer.

So, the A19 Pro sits uniquely in this landscape. It is not necessarily about the highest raw AI numbers, but about balance. Its hybrid architecture, combining Neural Accelerators in each GPU core with a 16-core Neural Engine, makes it highly efficient for real-world, on-device AI.

This design ensures that gaming, AR applications, computational photography, and even local large language models run smoothly with minimal heat and optimal battery use.

Performance akin to MacBook Pro

Unlike Tensor G5, which is optimised for Google's AI ecosystem, or Snapdragon 8 Elite, which focuses on peak throughput, the A19 Pro prioritises sustained performance and efficiency while delivering powerful hybrid AI and graphics capabilities.

Complementing this chip is Apple's new N1 wireless chip, supporting Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6, and Thread, ensuring that connectivity keeps pace with the capabilities of the silicon. And Apple's vapour chamber design helps keep such a high-performance chip cool during heavy AI or graphics workloads.

Apart from this, Apple has not just built this hybrid architecture in its A19 Pro chips; even the company's A19 chipset – the one that goes into the iPhone 17 – comes with Neural Accelerators. But the A19 chip comes with a 5-core GPU.

With this new silicon, Apple is clearly pushing up its performance and redefining what a smartphone can do when AI graphics are fused. As one Apple executive said in the company's keynote, this is MacBook Pro-level performance in an iPhone. For gamers, photographers, and AI enthusiasts, this could be Apple's most compelling silicon yet.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz to celebrate the 'queen of crime' Agatha Christie's 135th birthday

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Which was the first story the young Agatha Miller wrote while recovering from the flu?

QUESTION 2
In which full-length novels were readers introduced to Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple?

QUESTION 3
Which fictional Balkan nation makes an appearance in several stories, including '*The Secret of Chimneys*' and '*One, Two, Buckle My Shoe*'?

QUESTION 4
One of the more eminent actors, who played Poirot in six films, is said to have remarked, 'He is now!' when Christie's daughter Rosalind Hicks did not find the actor to be ideal for the role.

QUESTION 5
Name the highly intelligent ex-Army colonel who is introduced in '*The Man in the Brown Suit*', appears with Poirot in '*Death on the Nile*', and is last featured in 'Sparkling Cyanide'.

QUESTION 6
Simple! Name the village where Miss Marple resides.

QUESTION 7
How are Thomas Beresford and his wife, Prudence (née Cowley), better known?

QUESTION 8
The films '*Gumnaam*' (Hindi), '*Nadu Iravil*' (Tamil), and '*Aatagara*' (Kannada) are all based on which Christie work?

Visual Question:
Name the film icon on the right, seen with Agatha Christie, who played the lead role in the longest-running play of all time, 'The Mousetrap' when it first opened in 1952. GETTY IMAGES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. How many Sikh soldiers defended Saragarhi, and how many Afghan tribesmen attacked them? **Ans: 21 Sikh soldiers of the 36th Sikhs regiment defended against 10,000–12,000 Afghan tribesmen**
2. Who led the defence at Saragarhi? **Ans: Havildar Ishar Singh**
3. What was the strategic purpose of the Saragarhi post between Fort Lockhart and Fort Gulistan? **Ans: It served as a heliographic signalling post linking the two forts which were not in direct line of sight**
4. What gallantry award was posthumously given to all 21 Sikh defenders? **Ans: Indian Order of Merit**
5. What is the connection of this battle with the Indian Army today? **Ans: All units of the Indian Army's Sikh Regiment commemorate September 12 annually as Saragarhi Day.**
Visual: Identify this breech-loading single-shot rifle that featured heavily in the battle of Saragarhi? **Ans: The Martini–Henry**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan | Rajib Ganguly | Pranab Biswas | Erfanally Oosmany | Ranjit Bhatia

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

They decided to go halves on trip expenses

The boutique hotel they finally booked for the trip turned out to be quite pricey

S. Upendran

"Other than watching the U.S. Open finals, what else did you do during the weekend?"

"My friend and I went to the new restaurant on MG Road."

"Really? Heard the food is good."

"Not just good, it's great! The problem is, it's quite pricey."

"Pricey? Does it mean the place is expensive?"

"That's right! 'Pricey' is used in informal contexts to mean 'expensive'. It may also carry with it a hint of being unduly expensive."

"In other words, unreasonably costly."

"That's right! Here's an example. As soon as he got a job, Mallesh bought himself a pricey car."

"The next thing he'll do is look for a pricey apartment."

"He's already started looking. By the way, I checked out the apartment you'd recommended. The figure the builder quoted was a little pricey."

"Maybe you should tell Mallesh about the place. You said that the restaurant was pricey. How much did the bill come to?"

"Let's just say, when we got the bill, Rishi and I looked at each other, and decided to go halves."

"Never heard that expression before."

"When you go halves on something, you divide the cost between the two of you."

"In other words, it's like going Dutch?"

"Not necessarily! When you go Dutch with someone, you need not share the bill equally. You might end up paying for only what you ate."

"I see. When you go halves with someone, you share the cost equally with the individual."

"Exactly! Here's an example. We drove to Pune in my car, and Aditya insisted that we go halves on the petrol."

"The brothers went halves on the house rent."

"It's also possible to say, 'go halves with' someone. Will you go halves with Padma on the house rent?"

"I'll go halves with you on a bottle of expensive champagne."

"Champagne reminds me of your friend Damini. How is she doing?"

"We don't even talk to each other anymore. We only..."

"Really? What happened? I thought the two of you were...."

"After being promoted to Manager, she doesn't talk to her old friends anymore. I don't understand why she's acting so pricey."

"Acting so pricey!"

"The expression 'act pricey' is mostly used in informal contexts to refer to one's behaviour. A person who was once close to you begins to look through you."

"In other words, the person begins to behave like a snob."

"I guess you could say that."

"I think I'll have to skip next week's picnic. Let me assure you that I'm not acting pricey. I have a dentist's appointment."

"Really? I'm not sure I believe you."

"But believe this, the expression 'act pricey' is common in India. Native speakers of English don't use it."

"What is it that they say?"

"We'll talk about that some other time."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Rescind:
cancel officially

Synonyms: reverse, revoke, vacate

Usage: *The company decided to rescind the job offer.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/rescindpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /rɪsɪnd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

A.P. is on the high road to development under NDA: Nadda

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

J. P. Nadda

BJP national president J.P. Nadda has rolled out a road map for strengthening the party in Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing a public meeting organised on conclusion of the State-wide Saradhyam yatra undertaken by party State president P.V.N. Madhav in Visakhapatnam on Sunday, Mr. Nadda lashed out at the previous governments headed by the Congress at the Centre and the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in Andhra Pradesh, terming them non-performing and riddled with corruption.

"Eleven years ago, there used to be politics of non-performance. There was no development, and corruption and nepotism were rampant. In the past 11 years, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is politics of performance," Mr. Nadda said. The development achieved in the country and State under the National Democratic Alliance government has to be taken to the doorstep of the people for the party to emerge as a major political force in the State, he said.

'Promises fulfilled'

The BJP had delivered what it had promised, be it construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya or amendments to the CAA or the Waqf Act, he said.

Highlighting the achievements of the NDA government, Mr. Nadda, who is also a Union Minister, said Andhra Pradesh was not lagging behind in any way under the leadership of Mr. Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Speaking on the support extended by the Centre in fulfilling various assurances made during bifurcation of the State, Mr. Nadda said, "Andhra Pradesh has been given several educational institutions. Amrut railway stations are being developed in the State and Vande Bharat trains have been sanctioned. Airports, ports and fishing harbours are coming up in a big way, and medical colleges are also being set up."

The Centre was also giving funds for the development of Amaravati capital city, he added.

Mr. Nadda also highlighted the industrial growth in the State and the support extended by the NDA government in setting up a green hydrogen plant and a bulk drug park at Nakkapalli, and the proposed semiconductor park.

He asked the party cadre to give wide publicity to the achievements of the NDA across the State.

No power shortage or water disputes with T.N. this year, says CM

Siddaramaiah questions Tamil Nadu's stance on the proposed Mekedatu dam saying it will benefit both the States

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurating the Gaganachukki Jalapathothsava 2025, a festival of waterfalls, at Gaganachukki in Malavalli taluk of Mandya district on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that there will be no shortage of power supply in Karnataka this year.

Speaking after inaugurating the two-day Gaganachukki Jalapathothsava 2025, a festival of waterfalls organised jointly by the Department of Kannada and Culture, the Department of Tourism, and the Mandya district administration on Saturday evening, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the State had fortunately received good rainfall over the last two years and all the reservoirs were full.

"This year, there will be no shortage of electricity or disputes with Tamil Nadu over the sharing of water. If the rains are timely, water scarcity will not arise," he said.

Pointing out that the Shivanasamudra hydroelectric power station, set up in 1902, was the first such electricity generation station in Asia, Mr. Siddaramaiah acknowledged the role it played in making Karnataka self-reliant in power generation.

At present, Karnataka is producing sufficient electricity and supplying it to farmers as well, he said.

Regarding the release of water to Tamil Nadu, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that Karnataka must release 177.52 tmcft of water to the lower riparian State only if there is sufficient rainfall. "If the rainfall is inadequate, a distress formula will be applied," he said.

Although Karnataka was required to release 98 tmcft of water so far, about 221 tmcft of water – 122 tmcft more than required – had already flowed to Tamil Nadu.

Pointing out that Karnataka will continue to release water if the rainfall is good, Mr. Siddaramaiah wondered why Tamil Nadu was opposing the Mekedatu dam project.

Emphasising the importance of the Mekedatu dam project, the Chief Minister said there should be no objections from either Tamil Nadu or the Centre to it.

"The proposed dam can store about 66 tmcft of water, which will benefit both the States. During drought years, the water can be released to Tamil Nadu and in years when rainfall has been good, the water can be stored," he said.

Crop loss compensation

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that this year in Karnataka, sowing had been carried out in about 82 lakh hectares, which is more than last year, and that the farmers had suffered crop loss in about 5 lakh hectares due to rains.

He said that relief had already been provided to families who lost their lives, livestock, or homes during the rain, and crop loss compensation will also be given to the affected farmers after the completion of the ongoing joint survey within the next 10 days. Based on the report, crop loss compensation will be released, he said.

Hassan police shift lorry driver to Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Hassan police, on Sunday, shifted Bhuvanesh, the driver of the lorry that rammed into a crowd killing 10 people at Mosale Hosahalli in Hassan taluk, to Bengaluru for medical examination.

Soon after the accident on Friday at Mosale Hosahalli, the Gorur police took the injured driver into custody and shifted him to Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences (HIMS) in Hassan.

It is learnt that the local people had also assaulted him following the accident.

After the preliminary medical examination, the driver was shifted to a private hospital in Belluru, Mandya district, at the request of the police.

He had been undergoing treatment under police surveillance.

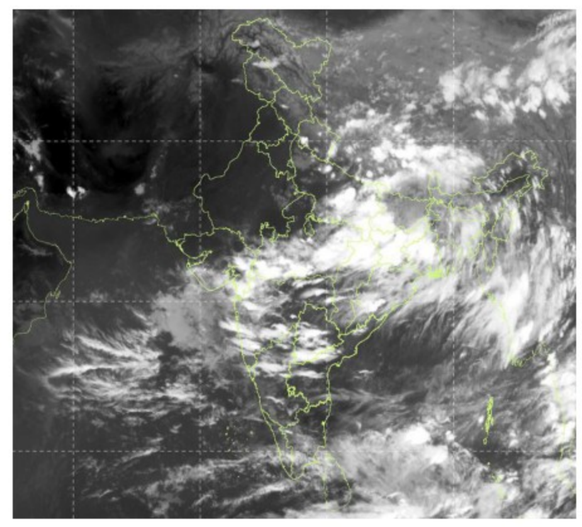
On Saturday evening, the police took him back to Hassan. The HIMS staff conducted an ECG and an ECHO (Echocardiogram). However, it is said that he complained of chest pain, and a physician referred him to the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology in Bengaluru for further examination.

The Hassan Police, then, took him to Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, the Hassan administration laid speed breakers on the road at the accident site to ensure road safety. Under the supervision of Public Works Department officers, the workers laid rumble strips at the accident spot.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to Very Heavy Rainfall very likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Bihar, Goa, Maharashtra, Marathwada,West Bengal and Sikkim and Uttarakhand. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and gusty winds very likely at isolated places over Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	9.0	28.4	25.6	Kozhikode	7.0	33.6	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	34.8	26.0	Kurnool	—	30.6	24.6
Aizawl	14.4	24.6	19.4	Lucknow	—	35.9	27.4
Allahabad	—	35.6	27.4	Madurai	—	37.8	24.9
Bengaluru	—	28.4	20.4	Mangaluru	0.2	29.7	23.1
Bhopal	—	31.4	24.4	Mumbai	19.0	29.6	24.0
Bhubaneswar	4.6	32.2	25.4	Mysuru	—	31.6	19.4
Chandigarh	32.4	34.6	25.0	New Delhi	—	34.3	24.0
Chennai	0.5	32.5	22.9	Patna	8.1	31.8	27.1
Coimbatore	—	33.4	23.0	Port Blair	6.0	30.7	24.7
Dehradun	42.0	31.5	22.8	Puducherry	—	34.2	25.0
Gangtok	40.0	21.1	17.7	Pune	15.2	31.0	23.5
Goa	10.0	30.4	24.6	Raipur	—	34.8	25.2
Guwahati	26.0	32.0	24.4	Ranchi	—	30.5	23.6
Hubballi	—	27.0	22.0	Shillong	0.5	25.2	17.5
Hyderabad	41.6	29.4	24.4	Shimla	5.0	24.8	18.8
Imphal	21.6	25.8	22.1	Srinagar	—	32.6	18.8
Jaipur	—	34.8	26.9	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.7	24.5
Kochi	—	30.6	25.2	Tiruchi	2.0	36.7	24.6
Kohima	33.0	21.0	18.8	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kolkata	—	33.0	26.6	Visakhapatnam	—	32.1	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.19	..25	32	 38	42	
Bengaluru	...7	..19	25	..... —	40	
Chennai	.14	..—	27	 38	66	
Delhi	.33	..44	82	... 210	...229	
Hyderabad	..—	..10	21	... 121	97	
Kolkata	...8	..49	21	 24	30	
Lucknow	...5	..12	34	... 116	...110	
Mumbai	...9	..15	..9	 44	...125	
Pune	..—	..—	70	 24	36	
Visakhapatnam	.12	..28	11	... 126	...310	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 311 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 11.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Remembering history

Dark chapter: Ahead of Hyderabad Liberation Day on September 17, the Central Bureau of Communication–Hyderabad has depicted the uprising of 1860 at Veyyi Urula Marri in Adilabad, where nearly 1,000 tribespeople were hanged by the Nizam's Army. G. RAMAKRISHNA

Kerala to launch 3-phase campaign to mitigate human-wildlife conflict

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

On the anvil: In the first phase, help desks will be opened at panchayat offices located in forest-fringe areas. K.K. MUSTAFAH

The Forest Department will launch an intensive 45-day mitigation programme beginning on September 16 to tackle human-wildlife conflict across Kerala.

Around 300 grama panchayats have been affected by human-wildlife conflict, with 273 of them reporting frequent incidents. Among these, nearly 30 local bodies have been identified as critical hotspots, according to official sources.

In the first phase of the campaign from September 16 to 30, help desks will be opened at all forest range and panchayat offices located in forest-fringe areas. These offices will accept written complaints from the public regarding crop loss, delayed compensation, safety threats and other difficulties caused by wild animal incursions.

Specially appointed teams comprising Forest department officials will visit each affected panchayat and coordinate with people's representatives to collect and document the complaints. The data collection process will be completed within 15 days.

The second phase of the programme, which runs from October 1 to 15, will focus on resolving issues that could not be addressed at the local level. Such matters will be escalated to the district-level committees.

From October 16 onwards, the campaign will enter its third phase that will focus on resolving complex and persistent issues that remain unsettled after the first two phases. These will be brought to the attention of the State government in order to identify policy-level and long-term solutions.

The State will apprise the Centre of issues that remain unresolved after the multi-phase programme.

'Prepare blueprint for waste management at K.R. Market'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to improve cleanliness at K.R. Market, Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan P. on Sunday directed officials to prepare a comprehensive blueprint for waste management and tackle encroachments.

Mr. Cholan batted for a detailed blueprint and phase-wise implementation of the measures.

During an inspection of the market, the commissioner noted that the premises generate nearly 70 tonnes of organic waste daily.

Currently, the waste is being processed in three shifts. He instructed officials to ensure that disposal is carried out scientifically and not dumped indiscriminately.

> Waste should not be dumped indiscriminately and cleanliness must be ensured throughout the market premises at all times
>
> **RAJENDRA CHOLAN P.**
> Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner

"Waste should not be dumped indiscriminately, and cleanliness must be ensured throughout the market premises at all times," Mr. Cholan said.

The Commissioner also observed that several vendors were encroaching on pedestrian pathways around the market. He directed officials to initiate action to clear such encroachments and restore pedestrian movement.

To streamline operations, the Chief Engineer was asked to convene a meeting immediately with engineers, revenue officers, and officials from Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited to discuss measures related to cleanliness. A tender has already been floated for the development of a smart parking system on the ground floor of K.R. Market. Mr. Cholan instructed officials to conduct a site inspection and expedite the project's execution.

Tree census to map green cover

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A tree census will be conducted in the city to measure and map its green cover at a time when Mysuru is witnessing rapid urbanisation and horizontal sprawl, even as its lung space is getting eroded.

The initiative aims to document the extent and condition of the city's tree cover in all 65 wards coming under the MCC limits, and beyond if deemed necessary.

An MoU was signed in the city on Sunday, and conservationist Smitha Hegde, will provide expertise to the Mysuru effort, said Bhamy V. Shenoy, founder and president of MGP.

13 arrested in multiple raids across Telangana; narcotics worth ₹1.09 crore seized

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

EAGLE teams seized drugs in raids from Secunderabad, Warangal and Sangareddy districts

Telangana's Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE), in coordination with the Government Railway Police (GRP), Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the local police, arrested 13 persons in raids across the State, and seized narcotics worth ₹1.09 crore.

On August 22, the EAGLE's Railways Team and RPF and GRP personnel, nabbed four inter-State drug peddlers from a train at the Secunderabad Railway Station, and seized 91 kg marijuana worth ₹22.75 lakh. On August 27, one more drug peddler was caught from the same place with 5 kg of marijuana worth ₹1.25 lakh.

In Warangal, coordinated action between the EAGLE team and the city's law and order police led to multiple arrests. On August 28, three peddlers were caught transporting contraband through the Konark Express, and 32 kg of marijuana worth ₹8 lakh was recovered. On August 30, two drug peddlers were apprehended in Mulugu district, where 30 kg of marijuana valued at ₹7.5 lakh was seized.

On September 7, a man was arrested from the Inavolu police station limits with 214 kg of marijuana worth ₹53.5 lakh.

Sangareddy raids

On August 29, the EAGLE's Sangareddy Team and the Town Police found an alprazolam manufacturing unit.

The raid led to the seizure of 270 grams of alprazolam, 7.89 kg nordiazepam and raw materials. The haul was valued at ₹16.31 lakh.

'Litigants can directly move High Court for pre-arrest bail'

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has said recently that it is well within its powers to consider anticipatory bail pleas even if litigants approach it directly without first approaching the sessions court concerned.

This is in view of precedents in this regard, the court held, while considering an anticipatory bail plea of the owner of an IT firm in a case of alleged sexual assault.

The Supreme Court earlier this month issued a notice to the High Court in this regard and said that it would be flooded with pre-bail applications if litigants approached directly.

Improving macros

India seems set for a period of low inflation and relatively high growth

Neither the government nor the RBI will likely be alarmed by the rise in retail inflation in August 2025, even though it snapped a nine-month streak of declining inflation rates. At 2.1%, it is just marginally within the RBI's comfort band of 2%-6%, with no real macroeconomic risk. The government would be glad to see food inflation remaining subdued at the urban and rural levels. Especially heartening would have been the 15.9% and 14.5% contraction in the prices of vegetables and pulses, respectively. When combined with the free foodgrains provision under the National Food Security Act, this downward movement in food prices ensures affordable supplies of these necessities. Other necessities, such as clothing and footwear, housing, and fuel and light, are all seeing inflation remain low, and lower in August than in July. As things stand, India's macroeconomic outlook looks the exact opposite of what it was last year. From a relatively low growth, high inflation scenario, India is now witnessing high growth and low inflation. In other words, the differential between growth and inflation at this time last year was about 2.1 percentage points. This year, it is about 5.5 percentage points, a welcome and large gap. Of course, there are legitimate questions to be asked about GDP and inflation data, but those questions were valid last year as well, and so do not erode the comparability of the two years.

Looking ahead, the overall outlook for inflation continues to appear benign. Even if India decides to accede to the U.S.'s demands and abandon its purchase of Russian oil, the economic impact is likely to be limited. Global crude prices are relatively low, and so the discount Russia is able to provide is not as attractive as it was in 2022. The cost increase of switching to other countries for oil is, therefore, likely to be limited. As a result, the impact on inflation within India is also likely to be limited, if such an eventuality comes to pass. On the other hand, the new GST rates will come into effect from September 22. With most prices set to come down due to their rates being cut, the impact on the inflation rate is also going to be in the same direction. The low inflation rate and high growth in Q1 have raised expectations that the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee will cut interest rates further in its next meeting at the end of September. However, given the ongoing global uncertainties, this might be premature. Depending on how the renewed bonhomie between India and the U.S. progresses, a rate cut in December is the more likely outcome.

Sliver of hope

An inclusive vision of conservation can protect more habitats

The recent survey of saltwater crocodiles in the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve is a notable advance for conservation in India. The census indicates a rise in overall numbers and demographic diversity, implying an ecological success that is also a marker of how wildlife law and conservation policy are gradually moving beyond their fixation on a handful of charismatic species, including the tiger and the elephant. In the early years of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, protection was disproportionately directed at megafauna whose appeal could mobilise public opinion. Saltwater crocodiles do not command the same affection, so their recovery demonstrates how the statutory framework, when coupled with targeted interventions such as the Bhagabatpur Crocodile Project, can yield durable gains even for less prominent species. In many countries, reptiles continue to receive weaker safeguards, often subordinated to fisheries or land-use concerns. The increase in Sundarban crocodiles suggests that India's model of combining blanket legal protection with site-specific captive breeding and release programmes has been effective. But in absolute terms, the law still has gaps: it does not adequately anticipate emerging threats linked to climate change, rising salinity or habitat fragmentation. Protection has also been reactive.

As hypercarnivorous apex predators, crocodiles regulate prey populations and remove carcasses from water channels, contributing to the health of mangroves. Thus, their presence signals that creeks and rivers still sustain a functioning food web despite immense pressures from human settlement, cyclones and sea-level rise. Better juvenile survival also indicates that the breeding habitat retains sufficient quality. This is an important ecological marker for the delta, where rising salinity and erosion are narrowing the niches available to wildlife. If the crocodile population can establish a stable age structure, it may bolster the resilience of the Sundarbans' mangrove networks. The species' trajectory also highlights what can be done for other neglected ones. Current Schedules under the Act should be accompanied by proactive, well-funded recovery plans, and public communication strategies need to be recalibrated. The crocodiles did not gain numbers because they became beloved but because conservation agencies invested in their protection. A similar shift in focus can support other species. Climate change integration is also essential. Saltwater crocodiles tolerate wide salinity ranges but many amphibians or freshwater reptiles do not. Anticipatory measures including identifying climate refugia and enabling assisted breeding are thus required. The recovery illustrates that non-charismatic species can benefit from law and policy with sustained attention. For India, the lesson is that a richer, more inclusive, vision of conservation is possible and necessary.

Positioning India in an unruly world

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

An article, in *Foreign Affairs*, titled "India's Great Power Delusions - How New Delhi's Grand Strategy Thwarts Its Grand Ambitions" (July/August 2025), is creating a storm in the proverbial tea cup. The article's key point is that India had 'delusions' of grandeur, and about becoming a Great Power, and that this lacked substance. More to the point, the article talks disparagingly about India, stating that it stood nowhere in the race between China and the United States, as far as the Great Power sweepstakes are concerned.

Not unexpectedly, this has ruffled feathers, at a time when India had begun to believe that it was on the cusp of overcoming the 'middle income trap' and emerging into the category of a Big Power. This may be termed delusional by some, but India's belief in its future is not new and has strong foundations. What may be faulted is the writer's premise that India and China are on the cusp of a conflict, and that India would need the United States' assistance to counter Chinese aggression. Both India and China are civilisational powers, though they have adopted different paths to progress. Neither country is, however, ready for a round of conflict, notwithstanding the existence of certain border issues between them. However, given India's experience in 1962 and 1971, when the U.S. went out of its way to remove any doubts that India might have had about U.S. support, the former is not looking for its aid in any future conflict.

The tenor of this article would suggest that the U.S. currently thinks that it can wield the big stick of the 'tariff war' to compel India to fall in line with its wishes. Lost in translation, however, is that Donald Trump's America is unable to comprehend the fact that the more advanced civilisations of the east, such as India and China, are not thinking of war or conflict at this time. Recent events and the meetings in Tianjin confirm this, and further demonstrate that India and China, along with Russia, constitute a strong phalanx against those anxious to disrupt the current world order – at least as far as Asia is concerned.

A closer look at the India story

It may, nevertheless, be worth analysing whether India's Big Power ambitions are indeed out of sync with reality. Also, whether it is wrong for India to start believing that achieving Great Power status is within reach. The first mistake made by critics is that India has never made the claim that it was about to overtake China in the near future. Or that it was within striking distance of the U.S. The worst that India can be accused of is to start believing that it had indeed pulled well ahead of a pack of nations that had started with similar hopes, and that India had succeeded in overcoming the 'middle income trap' – reaching striking distance of their main objective.

> India's belief in its future is not new and has strong foundations, which the West should understand

The derisive tone adopted by the writer of the article does seem to reflect an element of outrage at India's claims to progress. There is, however, a great deal to be said in favour of India's growth story, and, even more so, in the manner in which it has been achieved, in sharp contrast to that of countries such as China.

The Americans cannot be faulted for not reading or understanding history since this is not in their DNA. But India's spectacular transformation, from a 'famine affected' nation, through the Green Revolution, to becoming an exporter of food grains is, perhaps, unrivalled in the history of modern or even ancient times. Economic progress, rather than accumulating military strength, was the sine qua non of India's existence during its early years of independence, and provided the backbone for future progress. Butter before guns was the motto.

Nevertheless, and throughout this period, India exercised a degree of moral authority – that most countries including the U.S. have seldom exercised – to emerge as a balancing factor in international relations. This has few, if any, equals in politics post the Second World War. It is India that coined and propagated a new philosophy in international relations, *viz.*, the concept of Non Alignment, at a time when the world was split into two rival and conflicting orthodoxies; it helped safeguard the identity and hopes of newer nations post 1945, that did not wish to be aligned with either of the two rival blocs headed by the U.S. and Russia, respectively. India often acted as an arbiter in conflicts at the time (such as the Korean War in the 1950s), gaining international acclaim.

In the eyes of the West

The U.S.-China 'bromance' in the 1970s – achieved through the mesmerising diplomacy of then U.S. Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, and his friendship with China's Deng Xiaoping – which transformed the attitude of the U.S. and of the West to China's potential as a market, had the effect of diminishing India's importance in western eyes, especially that of the U.S. Simultaneously, India's close friendship with Russia proved to be an irritant, further cemented with the signing of the India-Soviet Treaty of 1971. The 1974 nuclear test in the Pokhran desert – 'Buddha is Smiling' – aggravated this situation further.

The imperious tone of the *Foreign Affairs* article betrays a lack of understanding about India's ability to manage contradictions of every kind. India's relations with the U.S. vastly improved since the turn of the century, reaching a high point following the India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Agreement in 2008. But this happened even as India-U.S. relations were still far from warm. Many irritants remain, the most nagging of them being India's reliance on Russian weapons, and, more recently, Russian oil, despite U.S. opposition.

This is despite India having more than made up for this by joining the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, the U.S.). Managing contradictions is among the key strengths that this country has derived from its civilisational past, which is little understood by countries in the West, specially those in the far West such as the U.S. The mandarins in the U.S. are, hence, unable to comprehend how India and China, despite being embroiled in a border dispute, can also be friends, as evidenced during the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit. Even more confusing for the West is the 'entente cordiale' between China, India and Russia, as demonstrated on this occasion.

Technological superiority is the driver

What is truly delusional, however, is the failure of the West to recognise the real impetus in world affairs today, which stems from the 'empires of the mind'. In this respect, the U.S. today has far fewer cards to deal. This is the age of the 'cybernated generation' and the digital fortress is being breached today by countries with evolved civilisations such as China, India, Japan and Vietnam.

Harvesting data is today the main weapon of choice – and this is very different from employing 'laser weapons'. Technological superiority is leading to new digital colonies, and the U.S. can at best, and only for now, claim a marginal advantage over countries such as India. India's intrinsic capacity in this area, meanwhile, shows strong and steady growth. Those like the writer of the Foreign Affairs article, who scoff at India's strength may, hence, have to repent at leisure.

Rather than casting stones at India, the U.S. and the West would do well to contemplate whether their current lead in critical technologies may soon prove illusory. As a new wave of technology 'geeks' storm and overturn the citadels of the past, and usher in a new world order, this is a real possibility. The West would also do well to realise that the 'Sherpas' that dominate Silicon Valley today, are mainly of Indian and Asian origin.

The U.S.'s lead of today is, thus, at best, ephemeral. India, for its part, is betting on this leap of faith as far as technologies of the future are concerned, and the West would do well to understand them rather than depend on hackneyed themes of countries seeking U.S. support to protect themselves. The sun may well set on the U.S., and much earlier than it realises, even as an India, steeped in the virtues of an ancient civilisation and based on knowledge derived from centuries of civilisational existence, gains ground. Better positioning is more important today rather than indulging in vague concerns.

Cutting off online gaming with the scissors of prohibition

M.V. Rajeev Gowda

is a former Member of Parliament (Congress)

In a manner akin to a stealth operation, the Government of India pushed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill 2025 in Parliament as the monsoon session drew to a close. This Bill outlawed online real money games while aiming to promote the growth of e-sports and online social games. The Bill was rushed through both Houses without any debate and was not preceded by any consultations with the affected industry or with States, which have jurisdiction over key aspects of the topic.

Online gaming was a sunrise sector in India and had seen significant foreign investment. This sudden ban will have repercussions for foreign direct investment across domains. Why would global investors trust India when rules flip overnight, and when the government kills one of the few digital industries where India could lead globally?

The fallout

Online gaming sits at the intersection of technology, payments, and digital content – the very sectors India claims to champion under the banner of Digital India. Choking this industry means shutting the doors on thousands of skilled jobs, slowing down innovation, and discouraging entrepreneurship at a time when the economy desperately needs them all.

When job creation in India is pitifully slow and at a time when the world is investing in gaming as the next digital frontier, this Bill has directly resulted in tremendous job losses. The gaming sector was on track to employ 1.5 lakh people by 2025 – across development, design, programming, customer support and analytics. These are precisely the kinds of cutting-edge, quality tech jobs India needs in its digital economy. Some of these will survive the ban.

Online real-money games were expected to generate about ₹17,000 crore in Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue for the Union government and States. By closing this source of revenue, the Centre has unilaterally cut off a crucial revenue source for States also, while making a significant sacrifice. Why?

> The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill 2025 will only end the prospects of a sunrise sector

The government's central arguments in support of the ban are that online real money games have resulted in financial ruin for players and resulted in something akin to drug addiction. That it is clearly a societal harm that needed to be addressed urgently. However, is the ban likely to provide a cure? Or, would careful regulation, as being developed in States such as Tamil Nadu, provide a more balanced resolution? Were there other, possibly better, ways to curb the negative side-effects of online real money games?

Glossing over responsible gaming

Online gaming companies were working on technological initiatives to identify and prevent problematic gaming. Responsible play tools already exist and are proven globally. These include age-gating to restrict access to minors, self-exclusion mechanisms, deposit and time limits, bot-detection systems, Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) checks, and ethical advertising standards. Instead of strengthening such safeguards, the ban abruptly destroys them, leaving players more vulnerable than before.

If online gaming platforms that complied with taxation and regulation are forced out, compulsive players will inevitably find a way to shift to illegal apps hosted by offshore or underground networks. Such platforms operate beyond the reach of Indian authorities, pay no taxes, and expose consumers to fraud and unsafe practices. The government will not only lose revenue but also inadvertently encourage the very illegal gambling rackets that it seeks to curb. This ban would just end accountability. The real issue here is regulatory capacity. Instead of building strong oversight frameworks which balance public interest with private profit, India has fallen back on the blunt tool of prohibition.

The ban also violates constitutional provisions, judicial doctrines and strikes a blow to federalism. Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution grants every person the fundamental right to practise any profession or business. The ban attacks the very foundations of this right. With one piece of legislation, a thriving industry has been dealt a body blow. If the concern was about the promotion of gambling, the Union government should have consulted with States as regulation of betting and gambling are State subjects. The new law has already been challenged in courts as it raises several questions of constitutional propriety.

A grey zone concerning online gaming has been whether it constitutes a 'game of skill' or a 'game of chance'. Judicial decisions have consistently upheld the legitimacy of games of skill. States are allowed to regulate or ban games of chance or gambling. Good regulation would clear the doubts around this subject.

A middle ground exists

Ideally, legislation should be developed which protects players, prevents addiction and exploitation, and addresses the priorities of various stakeholders and States. The choice is not between prohibition and a free-for-all. There is a middle ground: a clear licensing framework, strict compliance standards, and a taxation regime that is fair but predictable.

Banning online real money gaming, on the other hand, only ensures that both revenues and opportunities vanish into the underground economy, while leaving players unprotected and vulnerable. Time will tell whether, through this ban, India has protected its citizens or failed them.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hope, peace and Manipur

The visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Manipur, his first since the ethnic clashes, carries deep significance for a State that is scarred by violence and displacement. Mr. Modi's emphasis on dialogue reflects the only path forward — one based on mutual respect and understanding.

However, true reconciliation requires more than financial aid or infrastructure projects. It demands trust-building, protection of vulnerable communities, and the active participation of civil society in bridging divides. The Prime Minister's visit should mark not just symbolism but also a turning point in the State's history.

Rukma Sharma,
Jalandhar, Punjab

Holding SIR

No institution, however powerful it is, can claim exclusive and absolute power ("EC claims 'exclusive' power to decide how and when to hold SIR", September 14). Gone are the days when powerful institutions were beyond questioning. This is an age where the hands of the common man are strengthened with the Right to Information Act, pleas and PILs. Though the Election Commission of India (ECI) is bestowed with enormous powers and has the huge responsibility of conducting fair elections, it must realise that its policies are not totally flawless. People have the right to know and the ECI should be open to scrutiny.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

Great Nicobar project

An attempt is now being made to justify the mega-infrastructure project in the Nicobar Islands by labelling it as one of 'strategic, defence and national importance'. Constitution of a tribal welfare committee, afforestation, creation of wildlife corridors, "geo-fencing" of the Shompen people and other "mitigation measures" will not undo the damage. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the 'treasure' islands straddling the east coast in all their exuberance. See reason and shelve the project.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Bringing global education home

Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar

is former Chairman, University Grants Commission, and former Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Based on the University Grants Commission's recommendations, the Ministry of Education has handed over twelve letters of intent to top foreign universities to establish their campuses in India during the last year. One U.K. university has already opened its doors in Gurugram, launching its programmes for the 2025-26 academic session, with the remaining universities setting up campuses in Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai and the National Capital Region. The fact that world-class universities are establishing their physical campuses in India shows our conscious policy realignment. It opens new opportunities for our students and expands educational horizons in ways we could hardly imagine a decade ago.

The beginning point for this development is a regulation introduced by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in 2023. The idea is to allow top-ranking foreign universities to establish campuses in India with operational autonomy and regulatory clarity. The UGC took this calibrated decision to align with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. At its core, NEP 2020 calls for re-imagining higher education to be globally competitive while remaining locally rooted. Facilitating the establishment of global university campuses in India constitutes a direct implementation of that objective.

Why now?

India stands at an inflexion point. With a large aspirational youth population, India has a rapidly expanding and stable economy. Our start-up economy ranks among the fastest-growing globally and is a crucible of global innovation. There is a demand for quality higher education, especially in new-age fields such as AI, design, data science, sustainability, and finance.

Foreign universities are not arriving on empty ground. They are coming into a country already undergoing serious educational reform. Multidisciplinarity is being actively built into the curriculum. We are adopting hybrid educational delivery mechanisms using digital public infrastructure. Research funding is being streamlined through the Anusandhan National Research Foundation. Quality assurance mechanisms are becoming more outcome-oriented due to the reforms in accreditation. Foreign universities see the potential. Many western institutions face diverse challenges, including rising operational costs, demographic changes, and expanding globally. Establishing campuses in countries with a high youth population and growing intellectual capital makes strategic sense. India offers both.

Local advantage, global gains

For students in India, its long-term impact could be truly consequential. Access to international-quality education without the high costs of going abroad changes the game entirely. Families no longer have to stretch their finances or send their children halfway across the world. The benefits go beyond academic degrees. Students will have exposure to diverse peer networks, industry partnerships, and entrepreneurial ecosystems embedded within the country.

And here lies a critical point. Students who might not have considered international education due to economic or social constraints can make that possibility real now. From the parents' perspective, the appeal is straightforward. They want their children to have the best possible education, and they want to feel secure in that choice. Sending a child abroad involves logistical, emotional, and financial complications. With global campuses coming to Indian cities, that equation changes.

This situation, in turn, raises the bar for Indian institutions as well. Healthy competition never hurts a system. When foreign university campuses in India offer cutting-edge programmes, our universities must innovate, reflect, and re-energise their models. There is a strong case for research collaboration, too. For instance, we have seen IITs, IISERs, AIIMS, central universities, and State universities collaborate with global partners on areas such as renewable energy, public health, and engineering. Australian and U.K. universities share strong educational collaborations with Indian universities. European and U.S. universities are intensifying linkages. These collaborations support research, innovation, and skills development.

Students who might not have considered international education due to economic or social constraints can make that possibility real now

Education powerhouse

India is a rising power in technology, diplomacy, and manufacturing. Yet, we rarely speak of our potential in global education with the same conviction. India must position itself as an emerging force in international education not by imitating the western university model, but by drawing the world to engage with us on our terms, within our cultural, intellectual, and societal landscape. India's centuries-old tradition of scholarship, from Nalanda to Shantiniketan, should not be seen as relics of the past, but as living sources of credibility in shaping a distinctive, modern learning environment. India already draws thousands of international students each year, yet the scale is negligible compared to our potential. Some claim that prioritising global education is a distraction from India's domestic needs. The truth is the opposite. Inviting the world's students, researchers, and institutions to work with us here also lifts our universities' quality, resources, and ambitions. To ignore this is to allow other nations to monopolise the narrative of what "world-class education" means, while we remain consumers instead of shapers of that narrative.

The views expressed are personal

Time to reorganise JSP's structure

Alliance stays strong, but identity remains in a limbo

STATE OF PLAY

Sumit Bhattacharjee
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When the matinee idol of the Telugu film industry, Konidela Pawan Kalyan – fondly called PK – launched his political party, Jana Sena Party (JSP), in March 2014, political pundits had written him off as a 'political novice.' They even went so far as to claim that he, like his elder brother K. Chiranjeevi, would fade away within a few years.

Chiranjeevi, a superstar in Tollywood, had burned his fingers by launching his own political party, Praja Rajyam Party (PRP), in August 2008, which later merged with the Congress.

But Mr. Pawan proved them wrong. Not only did he hold on to his party, but he has also become a force to reckon with today, not just in Andhra Pradesh's political landscape, but at the national level, as his party is a key alliance partner of the NDA at the Centre.

Today, Mr. Pawan is the Deputy Chief Minister of the State. However, it appears he is losing grip over the party. In a recent 'Senatho Senani' meeting with party workers in Visakhapatnam, he candidly expressed his dissatisfaction with the party's cadres and leaders, vowing to personally steer it forward from here.

From a political rookie, Mr. Pawan has grown into a politician with a purpose. His clean image still helps him maintain unity within the party and gain political mileage in A.P.'s political fabric.

However, there is growing concern that since he won the elections and became Deputy CM, Mr. Pawan has distanced himself from the party activists and leaders. Reports of intra-party tensions and dissatisfaction among the cadres are on the rise. There is a sense of quiet discontent among the once-vocally supportive ranks. Many have voiced frustration over delays in local appointments, being sidelined in coalition politics, and the lack of representation.

There is also serious concern regarding the dominance of the alliance over JSP. Some even question Mr. Pawan's assertiveness in governance, amid the opinion that he is playing second fiddle to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP).

But PK seems to have understood the message early and is now on a mission to reorganise and restructure his party. He admitted in the meeting that due to overconcentration on governance, he had been forced to distance himself from party activities.

A senior leader of his party also agreed with Mr. Pawan's assessment. He explained that since they had come to power for the first time and the party was new to governance, it took some time to understand the complexities of managing a State.

Over the past 10 years, since Mr. Pawan launched his party, he has led it from the front despite numerous setbacks. He has demonstrated resilience by staying true to his ideals and fighting hard. In 2014, Mr. Pawan did not contest in the elections, despite supporting the NDA alliance of TDP and (Bharatiya Janata Party) BJP. In 2019, he contested alone and suffered a crushing defeat, losing from both constituencies where he had stood.

But in the 2024 elections, he turned the tide. After solidifying the alliance with BJP and TDP, he launched a vigorous campaign against YSR Congress Party's (YSRCP) Jagan Mohan Reddy, achieving a 100 per cent strike rate.

He won all 21 MLA seats from where his party had contested, as per the seat-sharing agreement, as well as two MP seats.

However, in the past year, a sense of insecurity has crept in. The cadres have been particularly unhappy with the allocation ratio of various nominated and quasi-judicial posts. While the upper echelons of the alliance appear to maintain good relations, there is simmering conflict at the mid and lower levels.

Now, Mr. Pawan is on a mission to rejuvenate and revive the moral strength of the cadre. He has made it clear that the alliance will remain intact, and the YSRCP will not be allowed to make a comeback.

At the Visakhapatnam meeting, Mr. Pawan officially declared that he would focus on strengthening his party at the grassroots level. He has set a target to complete this process by March 2026, making it clear that the cadre base is his strength and that there will be no room for complacency at any level. It seems that Mr. Pawan understands that he has a big task on his hands. Now is the time for him to re-engage with the cadres and activists, ramp up his visible participation in governance, and assert JSP's distinct identity within the alliance.

Cotton import duty cuts: The farms versus firms debate

In 2024-25, cotton imports recorded a 77% jump even with the import duty in place

DATA POINT

Ranjini Basu

The Indian government's removal of the 11% import duty on cotton has drawn protests from farmer unions. The textile industry, however, has welcomed the move, as it faces the burden of punitive 50% tariffs imposed by the Trump administration. The textile sector, being one of the biggest employers, is witnessing retrenchment of women garment workers as global apparel brands shift the burden of higher tariffs onto supply chains in the Global South. Aside from geopolitics, the issue must be understood in the context of structural changes in India's cotton trade and the blind spots in cotton research and development. It also highlights the need to revitalise farm-to-firm linkages in the domestic supply chain.

Trends in Indian cotton trade

India's rise as a global cotton player is linked to production changes, especially after 2004-05.

Post-independence, India emphasised raising cotton output, having lost major producing regions during Partition. The Intensive Cotton Production Programme initiated this growth, followed by the introduction of hybrid varieties in the 1970s. The Technology Mission on Cotton (1999-2000 to 2013-14) gave a strong boost to productivity and quality. Bt cotton or Bollgard II variety received approval in 2002 for western and southern zones and in 2006 for the north.

Traditionally, India exported Bengal desi and short-staple cotton. Exports of medium and long-staple varieties later grew modestly. After 2004-05, exports surged exponentially. Until then, demand came mainly from Indian mills, but since then, international demand has driven additional growth of exports and expansion of market. Additionally, increase in domestic supply reduced the textile industry's import dependency and boosted local ginning. For instance, in Gujarat's Saurashtra, many groundnut-oil mills converted to cotton ginning and cotton-seed oil production. Strong farm-to-firm linkages in India's cotton supply chain took shape after 2004-05s.

Issue of price parity

Despite previous progress, raw cotton imports are rising. In 2024-25, imports touched 5,25,158 tonnes – a 77% jump from the previous year, even with the import duty in place. The main reason is declining price parity: domestic cotton is costlier, while global prices are falling.

The Indian cotton supply chain begins with farmers and extends through ginners, spinners, textile mills, and the garment industry, eventually linking to major multinational brands. Over time, this chain has become increasingly integrated with global markets, making it vulnerable to international price fluctuations. Domestic spot market prices are influenced by global commodity indices and cotton-seed rates, with the Minimum Support Price (MSP) serving as a benchmark. As parity declines, ginning mills and brokers seek to acquire cotton at lower prices from farmers.

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) procures only when market prices fall below MSP, and its procurement signals inefficiencies in supply-demand balance. By June 2025, CCI had procured 34% of the production, among the highest in seven years.

High domestic costs are linked to falling production, declining acreage, stagnating productivity, and a weak cotton-to-lint ratio. Cultivation costs have also risen. Provisional estimates for 2024-25 show an 8.7% decline in cotton acreage, with north Indian farmers shifting to paddy and Gujarat farmers to soyabean and groundnut. In terms of productivity, Indian cotton took big leaps in the per hectare lint output ratio, especially in the post 2004-05 period. Average lint yield rose from 207 kg/hectare (1997-2002) to 481 kg/hectare (2012-17). The current yield of 437 kg/hectare, although above pre-2000 levels, lags considerably behind the world average of 833 kg/hectare, Brazil's 1,903, and China's 2,257.

Bt hybrids now cover over 95% of cotton acreage. Initially meant to tackle the persistent pink bollworm attacks and reduce insecticide use, the technology is over two decades old – a long time for any crop-technology to become more susceptible to pest-resistance. Bt hybrids soon spread to drylands, leading to loss of potency and other episodes of ineffectiveness and crop failures.

Research and investment

Globally, innovation and technology adoption has advanced further: major cotton exporters Brazil and Australia have adopted Bollgard-III, while China, the largest cotton producer, is using CRISPR-based gene editing. Indian debates have rightfully focused on corporate control of Bt technology; however, contemporary cotton production has fallen behind. In the present moment, advanced seed technology with adaptability to diverse agro-climatic conditions, higher lint output, and sustainable resource management require a targeted public-research response.

India's R&D spending is among the lowest in the developing world.

Correcting falling price parity does not mean retreating to a time of weak domestic and international demand of Indian cotton. Instead, India must envision a future where public investments in cotton strengthen farm-to-firm linkages by focusing on both quantity and quality.

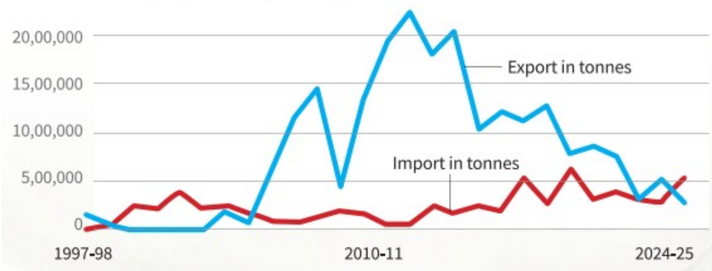
The writer teaches at School of Economics and Public Policy, RV University, Bangalore

Cotton conundrum

The data for the charts were sourced from Indiastat, the Cotton Association of India's annual "Cotton Balancesheet" and the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)

Chart 1: The chart shows the year-wise total demand, supply, and consumption of raw cotton in India from 1991-92 to 2023-24, in lakh bales of 170kg each

Chart 2: The chart shows the export and import of raw cotton (including waste) in India between 1997-98 and 2024-25, in tonnes. In 2024-25, imports touched 5 lakh tonnes—a 77 % jump from the previous year



The textile sector, one of the biggest employers, is witnessing the reduction of women garment-workers, as global apparel brands shift the burden of higher tariffs onto supply chains in the Global South.

1 India's R&D spending is among the lowest in the developing world. An uncompetitive sector could push farmers towards unsustainable crops.

2 More imports mean declining price parity: domestic cotton is costlier, while global prices are falling.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 15, 1975

Colour Adulterants

NEW DELHI, Sept. 14.
Metanil yellow, a non-permitted colour which has been found to damage the testicles of animals is the most popular adulterant in foodstuffs, according to the Indian Toxicological Research Centre in Lucknow.
In a study, the ITRC found "all the 940 samples" of "arhar dal" and other pulses examined by the centre contained non-permitted colours.
Metanil yellow was used in 97 per cent of the cases to paint "arhar" bright yellow. It was also found to be the major colourant for powdered turmeric and chewing tobacco.
The study by Drs. S.K. Khanna and G.B. Singh has shown that out of the 12,575 coloured food samples collected from various parts of Uttar Pradesh, 8,820 contained banned colours.
About one-third of them contained metanil yellow.
Giving the details in the "Science Reporter," the ITRC scientists claim that only 30 per cent of the samples they examined contained permitted colours. The other 70 per cent of samples contained banned colours.
They say the banned colours – about eight in number – are to-day being indiscriminately used in sweets, spices, beverages, pulses and even tea because they are cheaper than the permitted colours.
The banned colours were present in 83 per cent of non-mill products and 57 per cent of mill product samples. In the miscellaneous group (sugar products, soft drinks, etc.) the extent of colour adulteration was 48 per cent.
Non-permitted colours were used in "samples of sugar and general confectionery."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 15, 1925

Elections in British Cochin

There is a bye-election for five seats in the British Cochin Municipality which is to commence on the 24th instant, Mr. K.B. Jacob, Chairman, will have to vacate his seat as his term as a councillor is to expire shortly and the election campaign is already in full swing. The Chairman had requested the Collector of Malabar to depute the local Divisional Officer to conduct the ensuing election, but the Collector has declined to grant the request as such a deputation is not justifiable when there is a vice-Chairman who has to conduct the elections according to the rules.

From Page One

PM alleges plot to alter border population mix

Accusing the Congress of standing by anti-India individuals and ideologies, he said the country had bled when the party had been in power by pandering to vote-bank politics. "Today, our forces have uprooted the leaders of terrorism during Operation Sindoor, but the Congress, instead of standing by the Indian military, stood by the Pakistani military. Congress people take forward the agenda of those who nurture terrorism," he said.

He alleged that the Congress had demeaned the music maestro Bhupen Hazarika after the BJP-led government bestowed the Bharat Ratna on him posthumously. "Last night [Saturday], after I attended a programme celebrating the birth centenary of Bhupen-*da*, the Chief Minister (Mr. Sarma) showed me a video. It showed the Congress president making a statement the day the Government of India bestowed the Bharat Ratna on Bhupen-*da*. The Congress president said Modi gives Bharat Ratna to singers and dancers. I was hurt after watching it," the PM said.

He said the former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had abandoned Assam during the Chinese aggression in 1962. "The Congress's present generation is adding salt to the wound of the Northeast that is yet to heal," he said.

"However much you abuse me, as a devotee of Lord Shiva, I will swallow all the poison. When someone is insulted, I cannot tolerate it. Was giving the Bharat Ratna to Bhupen-*da* right or wrong?" Mr. Modi said."The people of Assam should ask for an explanation from the Congress why it insulted Bhupen-*da*," he said.

Earlier, the PM laid the foundation stones for health and infrastructure projects estimated at ₹6,300 crore at Mangaldoi. These included the Darrang Medical College and Hospital, along with a nursing college and a general nursing and midwifery school, the Narengi-Kuruwa bridge, and the Guwahati Ring Road connecting Kamrup and Darrang districts in Assam and Ri-Bhoi district in Meghalaya.

National Highway-2 is open, but the divide runs deep in Manipur

The highway is key to bringing essential supplies to the landlocked Imphal valley; it is also the road to the airport in State capital, which Kuki-Zo people have not been able to access since ethnic violence broke out in the State over two years ago

Vijaita Singh
IMPHAL

A checkpoint at the Imphal West-Kangpokpi border, which is a 'buffer zone' between the Meitei and the Kuki-Zo dominated districts of Imphal West and Kangpokpi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

National Highway no. 2 in Manipur is open for regular traffic but members of the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities are not venturing into each other's zones. Ethnic clashes between these communities have ebbed but both seem to be in no hurry to hit the road. Commercial and private vehicles run on the highway that connects the Imphal valley to Dimapur in Nagaland and further to Assam via the hill district of Kangpokpi.

On September 4, the Union Home Ministry announced the opening of NH-2 in Manipur in anticipation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the State on September 13.

On Sunday, when *The Hindu* visited the Imphal West-Kangpokpi border checkpoint, which is a "buffer zone" between the Meitei and the Kuki-Zo dominated districts of Imphal West and Kangpokpi, respectively, only commercial goods vehicles and private vehicles and buses with non-Meitei passengers were running on the road. The highway, broken and riddled with potholes, is key to bringing essential supplies to the landlocked Imphal valley. It is the key road to the airport in Imphal, which the Kuki-Zo have not been able to access since the ethnic violence erupted on May 3, 2023.

This is one of the two major "buffer zones" in Manipur operational since 2023, but the areas have been segregated only after the imposition of President's Rule on February 13.

Several clashes have taken place in the areas where the Meitei-dominated districts in the valley and the Kuki-Zo populated areas in the hills merge.

A central security officer posted at the Kangpokpi checkpoint said, "Some Meitei people may try to travel clandestinely but there is no visible movement of people from the community taking this route. Similarly, the tribal Kuki-Zo people are not travelling towards Imphal valley." A Manipur Police official posted at the gate said on condition of anonymity that the divide runs deep and mere operation of vehicles will not bridge the gap.

The opening of NH-2 was attempted earlier on March 8, days after President's Rule was imposed, but was met with violence leading to the death of a Kuki-Zo protester.

On September 4, the Home Ministry announced that the Kuki-Zo Council, a conglomerate of civil society organisations, has agreed to open the National Highway passing through Kangpokpi district "for the free movement of commuters and essential goods".

The KZC, however, said that the highway was never blocked and remained open for commuters and for transportation of essential goods and that it is the responsibility of the Central government to ensure the security of buffer zones.

Protest turns violent in Churachandpur

CHURACHANDPUR/IMPHAL
A mob clashed with security forces in Manipur's Churachandpur district on Sunday, protesting the detention of two youth for allegedly vandalising the banners put up for the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the police said. The situation eased once they were released. The police had earlier claimed that they were arrested.

2 injured as earthquakes jolt Northeast, West Bengal

Press Trust of India
GUWAHATI

An earthquake of 5.8 magnitude struck parts of the Northeast and adjoining West Bengal on Sunday evening, followed by three aftershocks within one-and-a-half hours, leaving at least two people injured and damaging scores of houses in Assam.

The first jolt of 5.8 magnitude was recorded at 4.41 p.m., the second tremor of 3.1 magnitude was felt at 4.58 p.m., followed by another tremor of 2.9 magnitude at 5.21 p.m. The fourth jolt was of 2.7 magnitude and recorded at 6.11 p.m., officials said.

The epicentre of the third quake was Sonitpur in Assam, while the remaining three struck neighbouring Udalguri district, they added.

The Assam State Disaster Management said two girls were injured in Udalguri due to the collapse of the ceiling of a hostel, and several houses were damaged in different parts of the State. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and enquired about the earthquake. He assured all support from the Centre.

Heavy rain, mudslides disrupt NH-29 in Nagaland

Press Trust of India
DIMAPUR

Torrential rain and mudslides have disrupted road communications along the Pagala Pahar stretch of National Highway-29 in Nagaland, leading to suspension of vehicular movement, officials said on Sunday.

A traffic official said multiple mudslides between Chathe Bridge and New Chumoukedima have blocked the Dimapur-Chumoukedima-Kohima route.

The strong currents of Chathe river, which has risen above the danger level due to heavy rainfall, swept away a suspension bridge connecting Chumoukedima and Seithekema. Flood waters also submerged the bailey bridge linking Dubagaon and Khughovi village.

The Peren district administration issued a travel advisory restricting the movement of essential commodities and commuters on the Pimla-Mhainamtsii road.

'LeT using flood relief funds to rebuild headquarters hit by Indian air strike'

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

A satellite image shows Markaz Taiba, LeT's headquarters, following air strikes in Muridke, Pakistan on May 7. REUTERS

The globally banned terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has been raising funds through both online and offline drives to construct its headquarters in Muridke, which was struck by the Indian Air Force on May 7 during Operation Sindoor, according to security agencies.

The air strike had targeted three main buildings inside the 1.09-acre Markaz Taiba complex in Muridke. Among the structures destroyed was a red-coloured two-storey building used for cadre accommodation and weapons storage. The other two yellow-coloured buildings were referred as Umm-ul-Qura ('mother of cities'), which housed training facilities and the residences of senior commanders.

In May, the Pakistani government had publicly announced that it would finance reconstruction of the LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) facilities. While it allocated 4 crore Pakistani rupees to the LeT for its headquarters 'Markaz Taiba', the estimated cost of full-fledged reconstruction could exceed 15 crore Pakistani rupees.

According to the agencies, funds are being collected under the guise of "relief for flood victims", the same *modus operandi* used during the 2005 Pakistan/Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) earthquake, when the LeT – under the Jamaat-ud-Dawa front – had raised a huge amount of funds, of which about 80% was diverted to build terror infrastructure.

The current trend is that LeT operatives are staging photo opportunities along with Pakistani Rangers and other officials at flood relief sites. "Assessments strongly suggest that the ongoing fundraising campaign by the LeT's Khidmat-e-Khalaq is a front. While publicly presented as aid for flood victims, the collected money is being diverted into the reconstruction of the Muridke headquarters and other damaged camps," an official said.

"We have information that the deadline for completing the construction work has been set as February 5, 2026, which is observed as Kashmir Solidarity Day in Pakistan. It is to coincide with the Lashkar-e-Taiba's annual Kashmir-focused jihad convention, as per security agencies. The same day this year, operatives of banned terror outfits, LeT, JeM, and Hizbul Mujahideen, had met with the Hamas leadership in PoJK," the official said.

"Pakistan has been occupying important positions in international forums on 'counter-terrorism' based on false assurances of curbing it. It is now a globally known fact that Pakistan has, instead, been engaging in a proxy war through terror outfits. These outfits frequently change their names to evade international sanctions or to ensure anonymity while carrying out terror strikes in India," the official said.

'India brags about having 1.4 billion people but won't buy one bushel of U.S. corn'

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

Howard Lutnick

India brags about having 1.4 billion people but won't buy even a small amount of American corn, United States Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has said, asserting that New Delhi must bring down its tariffs or face a "tough time" doing business with the U.S.

Mr. Lutnick made the comments during an interview on Saturday when he was asked whether the U.S. is mismanaging "very valuable relationships" with "important allies" like India, Canada, and Brazil with the tariffs imposed on these countries.

'One-way relationship'

"The relationship is one way, they sell to us and take advantage of us. They block us from their economy, and they sell to us while we are wide open for them to come in [and] take advantage," Mr. Lutnick said. "The president says, 'fair and reciprocal trade'," he added.

"India brags that they have 1.4 billion people. Why won't 1.4 billion people buy one bushel of U.S. corn? Doesn't that rub you the wrong way that they sell everything to us and they won't buy our corn. They put tariffs on everything," Mr. Lutnick said.

He added that President Donald Trump has said "'bring down your tariffs, treat us the way we treat you'".

The Commerce Secretary further added "we've got to right years of wrong so we want a tariff going the other way until we fix this".

"That's the President's model, and you either accept it or you're going to have a tough time doing business with the world's greatest consumer," Mr. Lutnick said.

The Trump administration has imposed 50% tariffs on India, including 25% for New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, among the highest imposed on any country in the world.

India has described the U.S. action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable". Defending its purchase of Russian crude oil, India has been maintaining that its energy procurement is driven by national interest and market dynamics.

Great Nicobar project pushed despite legal hurdles: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Reiterating concerns about the Great Nicobar Island Development Project, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh on Sunday said that the mega infrastructure project was an "ecological disaster" and despite the environmental clearances being challenged in the courts, the Narendra Modi government had continued to "bulldoze through" the project.

He pointed out that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation recently invited expressions of interest for enumeration, felling, logging and transportation of trees, and marking on the ground areas under the project.

In a post on X, he gave a timeline of the project so far. In August 18, 2022, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration certified that all individual and community rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, had been identified, settled, and consent obtained for diversion to the Great Nicobar project. On December 18, 2024, he said, this approval was challenged in the Calcutta High Court by Meena Gupta, a retired IAS officer.

Mr. Ramesh, who was Environment Minister in the UPA government, said that Ms. Gupta's petition contended that the certification of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration did not follow the 2006 Act in letter and spirit and, in fact, constituted a serious breach of the law.

"Thereafter, on February 19, 2025, the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MOTA), quite strangely, filed an affidavit in the Calcutta High Court submitting that it should be removed from the list of respondents," he said. "The Union MOTA seems to be curiously ambivalent even as the challenge in the Calcutta High Court awaits a detailed hearing," Mr. Ramesh said.

He claimed, the environmental clearance to the project is under challenge in the National Green Tribunal.

House panel says govt. must explore feasibility of licensing requirements for AI content creators

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A parliamentary committee has recommended that the government explore the feasibility of licensing requirements for AI content creators and making labelling of AI-generated videos and content mandatory, as part of efforts to combat the spread of fake news.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, chaired by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Nishikant Dubey, also asked the government to devise legal and technological measures to identify and prosecute individuals and organisations disseminating such content.

The report said advances in AI could provide tools to address concerns over fake news.

The committee's draft report was recently submitted to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and will be tabled in Parliament during the next session. It also called for "close coordination between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and other Ministries and departments".

While the committee's suggestions are not binding, its recommendations are often accepted by the government.

\The panel noted that MeitY has already constituted a nine-member body to examine challenges arising from "the issue of deepfakes".

Two ongoing projects in this regard include fake speech detection using a deep learning framework and the design and development of software to identify deepfake videos and images, it said.

The report observed that advances in technology, particularly in AI, could provide tools to address concerns over fake news. However, the Ministries concerned had conveyed that AI, in its current form, cannot be used for fact-checking as it relies on pre-existing information available online. Instead, AI could help flag potentially fake or misleading content for human review, the committee said.

"AI and machine learning (ML) technologies are increasingly being employed to enhance the ability to detect, verify, and prevent the spread of misinformation and disinformation," the committee noted, adding that several research projects and initiatives are exploring such uses.

Calling fake news a "serious threat" to public order and the democratic process, the committee recommended amending penal provisions, increasing fines, and fixing accountability. It also favoured the mandatory presence of fact-checking mechanisms and internal ombudsmen in all print, digital, and electronic media organisations.

At the same time, it stressed that such measures should evolve through consensus-building among media bodies and other stakeholders.

Ahead of polls, AIMIM knocks on the door of a reluctant INDIA

Move to prevent division of secular votes, says State president; party eyeing Seemanchal region; however, RJD and Congress reluctant; if AIMIM retain seats as part of the bloc, how will we claim to be lone messiah of Muslims, asks senior RJD leader

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), led by Asaduddin Owaisi, is once again set to emerge as a factor in the Assembly election in Bihar.

While the party claims to have made an impact in the State, it is, as in the past, concentrating its efforts on the Seemanchal region.

Seemanchal in north Bihar comprises the districts of Purnia, Katihar, Kishanganj, and Araria, which together account for 24 Assembly constituencies. The region is considered crucial for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

This time, the AIMIM is pressing to be part of the INDIA bloc in Bihar. Its State president and MLA, Akhtarul Iman, attempted to meet Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad but was unsuccessful.

In the 2020 Assembly election, the AIMIM won five seats in Seemanchal – Bahadurganj, Jokihat, Amour, Kochadhaman, and Baisi – giving a tough fight to candidates of the NDA and the grand alliance.

Battle for Bihar: AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi addressing an election campaign ahead of the Bihar Assembly election in 2020. In that election, his party won five seats in the Seemanchal region. PTI

The party had contested six seats in 2015 but lost all.

Decisive votes

According to the 2023 caste-based survey, Muslim voters are decisive in 47 of Bihar's 243 Assembly constituencies.

In 11 constituencies, Muslims constitute more than 40% of the electorate, while in seven, the figure exceeds 30%.

In 29 seats, Muslim voters account for 20%-30%. In parts of Seemanchal, their share goes up to 70%.

"I went to the residence of Lalu*ji* to put our demand that AIMIM should also be included in the INDIA bloc in Bihar. We only want that secular votes should not be divided and that's the reason we want to be part of the grand alliance," Mr. Iman told *The Hindu*.

"Last time we won five seats and this Assembly election, we will be contesting more seats. If there will be no alliance with the INDIA bloc, then we will form a third front with other political parties and will contest 100 Assembly seats. However, the exact number of seats will be decided by our party chief Owaisi*ji*."

Mr. Iman criticised the RJD, saying its "wrong policies" had enabled the BJP to remain in power.

He alleged that while the RJD relied on Muslim votes, it did not allow Muslim leadership to take charge.

Citing 2005, he said that Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan had proposed a Muslim Chief Minister, which the RJD did not accept, leading to a failed bid to form the government.

"I went to the residence of Lalu*ji* but they did not even open the gate and no one met me. If this is the attitude of the RJD, then they are going to face a lot of problems in days to come," said Mr. Iman, who represents the Amour Assembly seat in Purnia district.

Party sources said the AIMIM was keen on joining the INDIA bloc as it would enhance its chances of victory, especially in Seemanchal.

The party is reported to have demanded six seats in the region. However, leaders of the RJD and Congress are reluctant.

"Once we include AIMIM as our alliance partner then it will be very difficult for us because they will create their own space. If they retain those five seats as part of the INDIA bloc, how will we claim to be the lone messiah of Muslims? We do not want to give them that credit. Congress is already there with us. AIMIM is a party considered for vote polarisation like RSS and VHP," a senior RJD leader said.

Sena(UBT) protests over India-Pak. Asia Cup cricket match

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Members of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) on Sunday raised slogans and destroyed a television set as part of their protests in different parts of Maharashtra against the India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match scheduled in Dubai.

India and Pakistan faced off in Dubai, in the first match between the two sides since the military conflict in May, when India launched strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan-controlled territories after 26 persons, mostly tourists, were killed in a terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22.

The Centre has allowed the national team to play against Pakistan at multi-national events, including the World Cup and the Asia Cup, but has barred any bilateral engagement across sports.

On Saturday, Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said the cricket match between India and Pakistan in Dubai was an insult to national sentiments. The former Maharashtra Chief Minister had appealed to people not to watch the match, and said his party's women workers would collect *sindoor* (vermilion) and send it to the Prime Minister's Office.

Shiva Sena (UBT) members protest against the match, in Thane on Sunday. PTI

Following his opposition to the match, the Sena (UBT) on Sunday organised its '*Majha Kunku Majha Desh*' campaign in Mumbai. "We will send these items [*sindoor* and other symbols of a married woman] through official means, through post, not only from Mumbai, but from across Maharashtra to the PM's Office," Sena (UBT) leader and former Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar told presspersons.

Ms. Pednekar, along with South Mumbai MP Arvind Sawant, staged a protest near Currey Road, where they raised slogans and showed placards voicing their protest.

Owaisi flays BJP for letting India-Pakistan cricket match

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi has criticised the Union government for not halting the Asia Cup cricket match between India and Pakistan despite the terror attack and killing of civilians in Pahalgam.

Mr. Owaisi, with a Palestinian *keffiyeh* draped around his shoulders, was addressing the Jalsa Rahmatul-lil-Alameen public meeting in Darussalaam on the intervening night of September 13 and 14. He accused the BJP of putting commercial gain over national interest.

Mr. Owaisi sought to know on what grounds the cricket match against Pakistan was permitted when terrorists had singled out victims in Pahalgam based on religion and shot them dead. "If your daughter were killed, would you still play? How much revenue will come? ₹600 crore or ₹700 crore? Even if it is ₹2,000 crore, is the money more precious than the lives of 26 Indian citizens," he asked.

He said the BJP had been making tall claims of patriotism but was "being run out and stumped" when it came to the cricket match.

Amit Khare appointed Secretary to Vice-President

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Sunday appointed former IAS officer Amit Khare as Secretary to the new Vice-President, C.P. Radhakrishnan.

Mr. Khare has been serving as Adviser to the Prime Minister since October 12, 2021, handling matters related to the social sector in the Prime Minister's Office. He was also part of the core team that formulated and implemented the National Education Policy, 2020.

Alma mater

A 1985-batch Jharkhand cadre IAS officer, Mr. Khare is a graduate of St. Stephen's College in Delhi, and holds a postgraduate degree in business administration from the IIM, Ahmedabad.

He is noted for his role in exposing the "fodder scam" of Bihar. He has also worked as Secretary, Information and Broadcasting, and Secretary, Higher Education. His appointment will be for a period of three years from the date he assumes charge.

No competition beween Hindi and other Indian languages, says Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday urged people to respect all Indian languages, including Hindi, as part of India's journey towards a self-reliant, self-confident, and developed country.

Stressing unity in linguistic diversity, he said there was no competition between Hindi and other Indian languages, as they complemented and strengthened one another.

In a video message on the occasion of Hindi Divas, Mr. Shah said all Indian languages should become cornerstones of technology, science, justice, education, and administration.

"India is fundamentally a language-oriented nation. Our languages have been a powerful medium for carrying forward culture, history, traditions, knowledge, science, philosophy, and spirituality from generation to generation," he said.

"Saint Tiruvalluvar is sung with as much devotion in the South as he is read with interest in the North. Krishnadevaraya was as popular in the South as he was in the North. The patriotic compositions of Subramania Bharati ignite national pride in the youth of every region. Goswami Tulsidas is revered by every Indian, and the couplets of Saint Kabir are found in translations in Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam," he said, also citing the works of Surdas, Srimanta Sankardeva, Mahapurush Madhavdeva, and Bhupen Hazarika.

All Indian languages should become cornerstones of tech, justice, education... Our languages have been a powerful medium for carrying forward culture, history, traditions... from generation to generation
–AMIT SHAH, Home Minister

He said since 2014, the use of Hindi in government work had been continuously promoted. Last year, on Hindi Divas, the Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag was established with the aim of ensuring seamless translation between all major Indian languages.

Sarathi system

Later, at the fifth Akhil Bhartiya Rajbhasha Sammelan held in Gujarat's Gandhinagar, he said there was no competition between Hindi and other Indian languages and they complemented each other.

On initiatives taken by the government, Mr. Shah said the Sarathi system helped translation from Hindi to all recognised Indian languages. He urged the Chief Ministers to send him letters in their languages, assuring them that responses would be sent in the same language.

99% of goods in 12% GST bracket moved to 5%, says Sitharaman

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Sunday that the GST regime had benefited both the people and the State governments.

Speaking on "Tax reforms for rising Bharat" at a joint conclave of the Trade and Industries Association, she said that in the latest GST reforms, 99% of all the goods in the 12% GST bracket had come under the 5% bracket. "This is a reform which touches the lives of all 140 crore people. The GST rate cuts in the range of 10-13% will reduce the expenses for people and they can use that extra savings elsewhere," Ms. Sitharaman said.

She expressed confidence that the companies would pass on the benefits to the consumers.

Nirmala Sitharaman

"When the GST was introduced in 2017, there were 65 lakh taxpayers. Today there are 1.51 crore taxpayers," she said.

"The gross GST receipts which were ₹7.19 lakh crore in 2017 has now touched ₹22 lakh crore. On average, per-month GST collection is ₹1.9 lakh crore or ₹2 lakh crore for Central and State governments which is divided in the ratio of 50:50. If the monthly GST collection is ₹1.8 lakh crore, ₹90,000 crore goes to the States and ₹90,000 crore comes to the Centre. Out of the Centre's ₹90,000 crore, 41% goes to the States."

Ms. Sitharaman said that almost eight months of work had gone into the GST 2.0 reforms and the rate rationalisation had been effected with the cooperation of the Finance Ministers of all States in the GST Council. "GST rates for over 350 items have been reduced," she noted.

"Systems have been simplified so that GST registration can be done in three days," Ms. Sitharaman said. "Another major step is addressing the product classification problems in GST 2.0," she said.

"Now we have brought all food items at 5% or 0%. So there is no classification problem. We have brought similar classification for one type of goods. We worked on it for eight months looking into each item and what category it should be classified," Ms. Sitharaman said.

She said the cut in personal income tax rates, bringing in the new Income Tax Act and the GST reforms had all been done in a span of eight months.

Speaking at the event, A.R. Unnikrishnan, chairman of the CII Tamil Nadu State Council, and G.S.K. Velu, chairman, Federation of Indian Chambers Of Commerce and Industry and Tamil Nadu State Council, welcomed the GST reforms.

Linesh Sanatkumar, president, Hindustan Chamber of Commerce, said the increase in GST rate of paper and paperboard to 18% from 12% had come as a major shock.

Tamil Nadu Traders Association president A.M. Vikramaraja flagged the issue of harassment of traders by some GST officials and sought formation of a committee to address the issue.

Women's reservation law will grant them rightful place in governance: LS Speaker

Sandeep Phukan
TIRUPATI

The impact of the women's reservation law, achieving 100% literacy among girl students, enforcing the "no work, no pay" principle, and ensuring at least 60 sittings of Legislative Assemblies annually were among the key discussion points at the first national conference on parliamentary and legislative committees on the empowerment of women.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Sunday inaugurated the conference in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

Om Birla

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was scheduled to attend but could not fly into Tirupati due to bad weather en route.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Birla said the women's reservation law would create a new generation of leaders who would shape policies and determine the future of India.

The law, he said, goes beyond symbolism and grants women their rightful place in governance. He added that it was a matter of pride that the very first Bill passed in the new Parliament building was the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which ensures 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State legislatures, with special provisions for women from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The two-day conference, organised by the Andhra Pradesh Assembly, is being attended by Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker C. Ayyannapatrudu, BJP leader and chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women D. Purandeshwari, as well as representatives from 20 States.

(With inputs from Rangarajan A.D.)

Wheels India Limited
Regd Office : 21, Patullos Road, Chennai – 600 002
CIN : L35921TN1960PLC004175
Phone : 044-2623 4300; Fax : 044-26257121
Website : www.wheelsindia.com

Invites offers from interested parties for purchase of Mild Steel scrap items, for the two month period OCT - NOV 2025.

Details of the items available for disposal and tender terms and conditions can be had from the Company on written request.

Sealed offers can be submitted to the **Sr. Vice President (Supply Chain)**, Wheels India Limited, Padi, Chennai - 600 050 **to reach on or before 29th SEPTEMBER 2025.**

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B.M.S. College of Engineering
BANGALORE-560019
Autonomous College under VTU aided by GOK
Approved by AICTE I Accredited by NAAC
All India Council for Technical Education IDEA Lab

TENDER NOTICE
Ref: ST/DCA/AICTE Grants/ ME-2/2025-26/17/62 & 63 – 28.08.2025
Sealed tenders are invited from eligible bidders for the supply of equipment, tools, and consumables required for the establishment of an AICTE IDEA Lab.
Tender documents and detailed terms & conditions are available on our website: https://bmsce.ac.in/home/Tenders
Sd/- PRINCIPAL

BMS Institute of Technology & Management
(An Autonomous Institution Affiliated to VTU, Belagavi)
Avalahalli, Doddaballapur Main Road, Bengaluru – 560119.

TENDER NOTICE
Ref: BMSIT&M/AICTE IDEA LAB/2025-26/1295 Date:11.09.2025
BMS Institute of Technology & Management hereby invites tenders through Two-Bid System (Technical Bid and Financial Bid) from eligible manufacturers and suppliers/ vendors for the supply of equipment and tools required for the establishment of an AICTE IDEA Lab.
Tender documents and detailed terms & conditions are available on our website: https://bmsit.ac.in/tenders
Sd/- PRINCIPAL

KANNUR International Airport
KANNUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
E-Tender ID: 2025_KIAL_796717_1
E-Tenders are invited by Managing Director, KIAL for the work - Setting Up, Operating & Managing **Airport Restaurant at City Side** at Kannur International Airport.
For more details, please visit- www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
Bid Submission Last Date: 6 October 2025, 1400 Hrs

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
e Procurement Notice for Road Works under DMF
Bid Identification No. NCB-17/RWCKJR/2025-26
No. 3550 // Date : 10.09.2025

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Road and CD Works under DMF in the District of Keonjhar.**
2. No. of Work : **03 (Three)** Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-17 / RWCKJR / 2025-26	Dt.17.09.25 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.06.10.25 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.04.10.25 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.08.10.25 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.
O-751: OIPR-25177/11/0093/2526

INBRIEF

ED summons ex-MP, actor in illegal online betting case

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned former Trinamool Congress MP Mimi Chakraborty (in photo) and Bollywood actor Urvashi Rautela in connection with the 1xBet "illegal betting app" case, according to agency sources. Ms. Chakraborty has been asked to join the investigation at the ED's Delhi headquarters on Monday and Ms. Rautela the next day. The ED had earlier recorded the statements of former Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan and Suresh Raina in the same case.

Top court set to consider SIT report in Vantara case today

The Supreme Court is scheduled on Monday to consider a confidential report submitted by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) chaired by former top court judge Justice J. Chelameswar (retd.), which was tasked with conducting an "independent factual appraisal" of complaints and allegations of violations against Vantara, a zoological rescue and rehabilitation centre conceptualised by Anant Ambani at Jamnagar. The court's decision on August 25 to constitute a SIT was based on two petitions alleging Vantara's involvement in the unlawful acquisition of animals from India and abroad, mistreatment of animals in captivity, financial irregularities, money laundering, and related charges.

Odisha teacher suspended for beating 31 students

An assistant schoolteacher has been suspended in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha for beating 31 students because they did not touch her feet after morning prayers. The incident occurred on September 11 at the Government Upper Primary School in Khandadeula, under Betnoti block, when the teacher, Sukanti Kar, reportedly arrived late and expected respect from students. "Ms. Kar probably felt offended as the students did not touch her feet as a mark of respect," said Biplab Kar,Block Education Officer (BEO) of Betnoti. He added that the students were beaten with a bamboo stick and were found with several bruises on their hands. One child had to be given first aid and a girl even lost consciousness briefly.

Maoist killed in gunfight with security forces in Jharkhand

A Maoist was killed in a gunfight with security forces in Jharkhand's Palamu district on Sunday morning, the police said. The deceased was identified as Mukhdev Yadav, 40, alias Toofan ji, a self-styled sub-zonal commander of the banned Maoist splinter group Tritiya Sammelan Prastuti Committee (TSPC), Superintendent of Police Reeshma Ramesan said. The encounter broke out in a forest area bordering Manatu and Tarhasi in the district, Inspector-General (Operations), Michael Raj S. said. He added that the body of the red rebel, along with an INSAS rifle, a pistol and 146 live cartridges, were recovered from the spot. Yadav was wanted in 27 cases in various police stations of Palamu and Chatra. PTI

PM inaugurates India's first bamboo-based ethanol plant

Golaghat facility billed as world's first green bamboo bioethanol plant; ₹7,230-crore polypropylene project also initiated at Numaligarh Refinery; the facility aims to reduce dependence on fossil fuels

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday underscored the need for India to be self-sufficient in energy. He was speaking after inaugurating the country's first bamboo-based ethanol plant in eastern Assam's Golaghat district.

He laid the foundation stone for a ₹7,230-crore polypropylene plant at the Numaligarh Refinery. The project will be established near the ₹5,000-crore bioethanol plant, a "zero-waste" facility described as the world's first to produce ethanol from green bamboo.

Terming the bioethanol plant a step toward ensuring energy security, Mr. Modi said the facility aimed to promote clean energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

"Assam is a land that supports India's energy efficiency. The petroleum products from Assam are accelerating the development of India. The BJP government is trying to take this capacity of Assam to a new level," he said at a public event.

"India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world now. Our energy needs have been increasing with our Viksit Bharat dream. We spend crores of rupees on imports as we are dependent on other countries for energy. We want to change this by trying to achieve self-sufficiency in energy," the Prime Minister said.

Clean energy: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of Assam Bio-Ethanol Private Ltd. (ABEL), Numaligarh Refinery Plant, in Golaghat on Sunday. PTI

Deep-water exploration

"While we are focusing on hydrocarbon exploration, we are also laying stress on green energy like solar," he said, highlighting the country's national deep-water exploration mission to look for hydrocarbons under the sea. Referring to the bioethanol plant, Mr. Modi said it would benefit local farmers and tribal communities.

"The government will help them grow and procure the products to ensure a win-win situation," he said. He criticised the erstwhile Congress governments for penalising people for cutting bamboo, which was earlier categorised as a tree. He said the BJP government removed the ban on bamboo cutting and stressed that the decision was helping the locals in this part of the country.

Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) officials said five lakh tonnes of green bamboo would be sourced yearly from four northeastern States, including Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, to produce 48,900 tonnes of ethanol, 11,000 tonnes of acetic acid, 19,000 tonnes of furfural, and 31,000 tonnes of food-grade liquid carbon dioxide. A joint venture of NRL and Finland's Fortum and Chempolis OY, the plant is expected to give a ₹200-crore boost to Assam's rural economy.

Revenue procurement process for armed forces to be simplified

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Rajnath Singh

India on Sunday unveiled a new framework to streamline, simplify, and rationalise the revenue procurement process for the armed forces, with an overall focus on making available required resources without any delays.

The Defence Procurement Manual (DPM), 2025 lays down the guiding principles and provisions for all revenue procurement in the Defence Ministry valued around ₹1 lakh crore for the current fiscal, an official readout said.

"It will foster jointness among the three Services and help in maintaining the highest level of military preparedness through expeditious decision making," the readout said.

The DPM will "ensure timely availability of requisite resources to the armed forces and at appropriate cost", the Ministry said in the readout.

The new framework was released after it was approved by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

It said the new manual is aimed at achieving self-reliance in fulfilling the needs of the armed forces. Procurement of goods and services by the defence services and of other organisations under the Ministry is regulated by the DPM. It was last promulgated in 2009.

"Ease of doing business has been further strengthened in the document, which aims to boost Aatmanirbharta [self-reliance] in defence manufacturing and technology," the Ministry said.

The revised document has been aligned with the updated provisions of the manual for procurement of goods issued by the Finance Ministry.

"This will help in the indigenisation of defence items/spares through in-house designing and development in collaboration with public/private industries and academia," it noted.

"Provision has been introduced not to levy Liquidity Damages (LD) during the development phase," the Ministry further said.

India must invest more in accelerating diversification of food production: FAO Chief Economist Maximo Cullen

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

About 40.4% of the Indian population (approximately 60 crore people) are unable to afford a healthy meal, says Maximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Cullen said the number was a significant decrease from the FAO's assessment in 2023 that 74.1% of India's population was unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021.

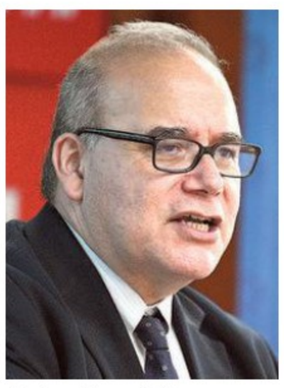
He said India needed to start to invest more in accelerating the diversification of food production.

Dr. Cullen said India played a crucial role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of zero hunger by 2030 because of the level, size, and population of the country.

"Reduction of hunger in India affects the world and affects, of course, South Asia. So India, I think, has a huge role to play. That's why we believe it's so important that they continue and accelerate the transformation. India needs to move to the higher level – that is access to healthy diets, which right now is 40.4% of the population. So we need to improve that even more and also to find ways to assure this today and tomorrow," he said.

"The Green Revolution played its role, but now it's time to do more. So don't forget about it, but do more. We need to do more," Dr. Cullen said.

On the FAO's assessment in 2023 that 74.1% of India's population was unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021, he said that in 2024, the percentage of the population that could not afford a healthy meal was 40.4.



Maximo Torero Cullen

"The methodology is improved. So yes, there is an important decrease. So the number to compare is basically to look at the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World [SOFI] of this year to look at the previous year's number. But yes, there is a significant improvement, but still it's too high. Healthy diet is diversity. It means fruits and vegetables, proteins, and also means cereals. More than 40% of the country's population cannot afford a healthy diet. So it's a minimum cost to healthy diet," the FAO Chief Economist said.

Address the situation

Dr. Cullen added that the immediate step the Indian government should take to address the situation was diversification.

"India needs to start to invest more in accelerating the diversification of production. To move from cereals to high-value commodities. Pulses could be an option because they are more nutritious, they also have proteins. So pulses is an option and this is very consistent with your culture. But India should move more to fruits and vegetables and that requires an effort because you will need to substitute at some point," he said.

Tariff war

On the tariff war, he said the first problem of tariffs was inefficiencies.

"You will be more inefficient in the way you move commodities. Because before you were optimising the world, now the world is segmented. The world that wants low tariffs, but the world that has now high tariffs. The second issue is uncertainty. The changes of tariffs every day has created a lot of uncertainty and that complicates markets. Although markets have already learned how to manage this uncertainty, so things don't change too much," he said.

He, however, said the impact of food insecurity due to tariffs was not so high, but inefficiencies would be high.

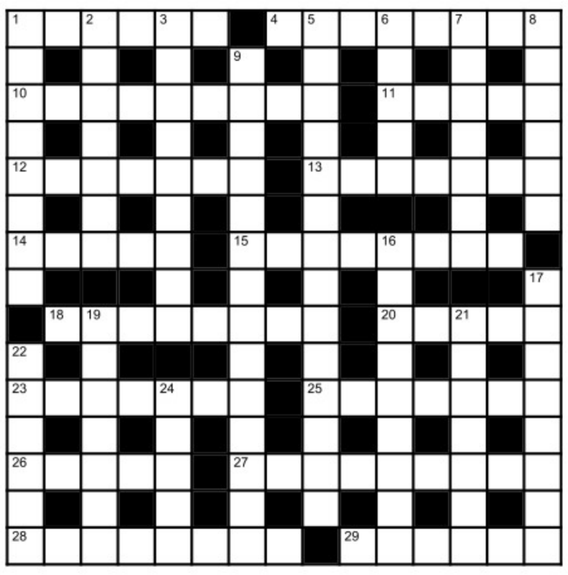
"But assume they get into a situation where you play tit-for-tat, then this could be very dangerous. It's not happening at this point, countries are not responding. So let's see how it evolves, but uncertainty and inefficiencies will make us less resilient for sure, because we will have less places where to have food access because of the tariffs. It will affect farmers, it will affect the smallholders, especially will affect the farmers who are more linked to the markets. But what will happen at the end is that you will have a segmented trade," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14589

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Fly from Basra via Teheran (6)
4 Spooner says boy, drunk, is an unsporting person (3,5)
10 She has no hope in new diets having energy to cut obesity (9)
11 Surrealist about to paint India's epic (5)
12 Heart patient's endless worry about nursing help after retirement (7)
13 Be careful in European park when cycling (2,5)
14 Everyone trusts this, oddly (5)
15 Leave den in retreat centrally sited in West Asian country (8)
18 Farm building - one housing large creature (8)
20 Attractive person from Portugal quitting prize match (5)
23 Runs a bath to hide worry (7)
25 Prosecute artist assuming a doctor's name (7)
26 Orange mineral outside church (5)
27 Bankers arranged 50% loan for resident of Omaha (9)
28 Academy's contrarian leader expelled - it's fitting (8)
29 Makes one group in University to withdraw (6)

Down

1 Daring one killed in luxury car near a metropolis (8)
2 Dead tissue beginning to rot inside? Really? (7)
3 It's customary to be tense, avoiding a treatment for cancer (9)
5 Macbeth says: "A peer's heart changes according to the circumstances" (2,3,4,3,2)
6 Dishonest agent missed giving a response (5)
7 Vegetable again planted in border (7)
8 Milk producer following essentially "Dairies guide" (6)
9 Place to keep cutlery for informal advisors (7,7)
16 Centaur with wings of iron flying up in the air (9)
17 Stall workers carrying national flags (8)
19 Shows cool form of transport (7)
21 Sign in gift: "Not a toy!" (7)
22 An exercise covering half of nose leads to a breathing problem (6)
24 Customers and escorts leaving hotel (5)

SUDOKU

5					8			
2	8					4		
			7	5	1			
4	3			1	7			
	6						5	
			6	3			8	1
			9	2	6			
		6					3	2
			4					6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS6642 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	2	1	6	8	3	4	7
1	3	8	2	7	4	9	6	5
6	7	4	5	3	9	1	2	8
2	1	7	9	4	5	8	3	6
5	4	3	7	8	6	2	9	1
8	9	6	3	2	1	5	7	4
7	2	5	6	1	3	4	8	9
3	8	1	4	9	7	6	5	2
4	6	9	8	5	2	7	1	3

FAITH

Krishna, the miracle

The birth of Lord Krishna is the most joyous thing one can listen to on earth. Only those who have led a virtuous life are blessed enough to listen to Krishna avatar, the miraculous manifestation of Mahavishnu as Krishna in the month of Avani, under the Rohini star and Ashtami tithi, said Damal Perundevi.

Krishna appeared on earth after promising the earth deity that He would protect everyone. "I will be born in the Yadava dynasty," He declared. Hearing the birth story of Krishna is nothing short of a miracle, and one has to be blessed to hear it, said sage Suka to King Parikshit, the scion of the Pandavas.

Narrating the Bhagavatham to Parikshit, Suka ecstatically said a miracle had descended, sporting a yellow silk cloth, with a crown adorned with peacock feathers. Parikshit was assailed by doubt and said, "You recited a verse, spoke of a miracle, but nowhere did you say Devaki's son was born (unlike the Ramayana, where it is stated clearly that Kausalya gave birth to Rama)." The sage replied saying Krishna and miracle are synonymous with each other as it were. From the moment of His birth, Kirshna was nothing but a miracle. He showed His celestial form to His parents at birth, addressed them as soon as he was born, moved to another place the same night and grew to be beloved by all; He overcame asuras; danced on Kalinga; held aloft the Govardhan mountain for seven days; sported with everyone; defeated Kamsa; He arrested the disrobing of Draupadi; He rendered the Bhagavad Gita as a ready reckoner to all human beings. Krishna and miracle are one and the same.

Should you be a loan guarantor?

Santosh Agarwal

Becoming the guarantor of a loan may seem like a simple gesture for helping someone close to get credit. However, in reality, it creates a binding financial responsibility for a long period. As lenders treat loan guarantors almost at par with borrowers, they hold loan guarantors for repayment defaults. Thus, understanding the implications of becoming a loan guarantor can help protect both relationship and long-term financial well-being.

Asking for guarantee

Lenders usually need prospective borrowers to rope in loan guarantors when they are not fully convinced about the repayment capacity or loan eligibility of the primary and co-borrowers. Situations where the need for a guarantor might arise include huge loan amounts, applicants with risky job profiles, unsatisfactory employer profiles, low credit scores, etc. Including a guarantor in such cases reduces credit risk for the lender, providing an additional layer of protection. Factors to be considered before becoming a loan guarantor include:

Guarantor's credit profile check

As the guarantor would be held liable for loan repayment in case of default by primary and co-borrowers, lenders would check the credit profile of the individual proposed as loan guarantor. As in the case of primary and co-applicants, lenders may consider income, credit score, repayment capacity, job and employer profile, etc. of the proposed guarantor to evaluate his eligibility as a guarantor.

Contingent liability

Becoming a loan guarantor would make one equally liable for ensuring timely repayment. Thus, if the primary and co-borrower(s) of a loan fail to repay EMIs by due dates, then the lender can demand the guarantor to repay the outstanding loan amount as well as the applicable penal rates and other charges for non-repayment.

Thus, if you are agreeing to sign in as the loan guarantor, try to persuade the primary as well as co-applicant(s), if any, to opt for loan protection insurance plans.

These policies cover contingencies arising due to the death or disability of primary/co-borrower of the loan. Note these insurance plans do not cover repayment defaults caused by other reasons.

Impact on guarantor

The contingent liability of repaying the loan EMIs in the event of default by the primary and co-borrower(s) adversely impacts the future loan eligibility of a loan guarantor.

Once a person signs in as a loan guarantor, his own loan eligibility would get reduced by the outstanding amount of the loan. Thus, prospective loan guarantors should carefully assess his own loan requirements in the short and mid-term before signing as a loan guarantor.

Guarantor's credit score

Any delay or default in repayment of the loan EMIs would adversely impact the credit score of the loan guarantor as well. Thus, always evaluate the financial condition of the primary and co-borrower(s), if applicable, before guaranteeing a loan. You can also ask the primary borrower and co-borrowers to share their credit reports to get a fair idea about their repayment track-record and credit discipline. You should avoid guaranteeing loans where the primary borrower(s) have a very poor repayment track-record or lack financial discipline. Once you step in as a loan guarantor, ensure to closely track the repayment activities in the guaranteed loan account.

Difficulties in opting out

Once you step in as the guarantor of a loan, you cannot withdraw from the responsibilities of a guarantor until the lender and the borrower(s) find a mutually acceptable new loan guarantor. This becomes another reason to carefully assess one's short and mid-term financing requirements before agreeing to guarantee a loan.

(The writer is CEO of Paisabazaar)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

No discrimination: The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission ruled firms must avoid gender-based price discrimination.

Stop paying more for being a woman: avoid Pink Tax

Don't let Pink Tax pinch your pocket; outsmart the gender-based price discrimination with smart shopping habits; compare the prices wisely and pocket the savings

LITTLE KNOWN 'LEVY'

Vaishali R. Venkat

Same haircut, yet different price tags. Ever observed why your daughter's haircut often costs more than son's? Do the scissors charge extra for braids and bows? Nope. It's just a markup born out of gender-based price discrimination! And it's not just haircuts. Pink toys are heftier than other toys, and women's shampoos, conditioners and razors are often expensive than men's variants.

This gender-based price disparity is subtle, yet real. Welcome to the world of pink tax, where being a woman could mean paying extra. But wait, the Pink Tax is not a problem meant for women alone. It can silently erode a significant portion of a family's savings, especially in households where women are not part of the workforce.

What is Pink Tax?

Pink tax is neither a real tax, nor is it a government-imposed fee. It's just a pricing phenomenon wherein women pay more for buying a product exclusively made for them or enjoying a service tailor-made for them. As there is no outright ban on pink tax, firms reap benefits by pocketing extra revenue generated out of selling the items, without contributing to government's coffers.

Pink toys, haircuts, dry-cleaning, razors, shampoos, body lotions, deodorants, facial care, skincare items, beauty care, clothing, T-shirts, jeans, salon services etc. suffer the tax.

> Pink Tax is all about a pricing phenomenon wherein women pay more for buying a product made for them or enjoying a service tailor-made for them

Across the globe

The term "Pink Tax" is believed to have originated in the U.S. in California in 1994. As per a study done in the U.S., personal care products targeting women were 13% costlier than men's. Further, women's accessories and adult clothing were 7% and 8% more expensive.

The study showed that in their entire lives, women pay thousands of dollars more than men for buying similar products. It further said since many women earn less than men on an average, the Pink Tax throws additional burden on them, economically. Another study in the U.S. said the price for dry cleaning women's shirts were 90% more expensive than those of men's.

In the U.K, an analysis showed women's deodorant was at least 8.9% more expensive than men's variant and women's facial moisturiser was 34.28% more expensive.

In 2017, the United Nations urged its member states to put an end to this gender-based price discrimination and to help women gain equal access to economic participation.

> The Pink Tax exists because you pay quietly. Avoiding the levy is not just about saving money, it's also about claiming equality in the marketplace

Pink Tax in India

The problem of Pink Tax is yet to bother most Indian families. As per International Finance Students Association's (IFSA) research 'The Gender Tax: Assessing the Economic Toll on Women,' almost 67% of Indian individuals have never heard of the Pink Tax.

In July 2018, the Union Government exempted sanitary napkins and tampons from the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Prior to this rule, these hygiene items were levied 12% GST. Probably, this was the time when Indian women took notice of this gender-based disparity in pricing.

How to avoid Pink Tax?

With a little awareness, you can outsmart the Pink Tax. Choose gender-neutral products or men's variants whenever possible. Compare the quality and if the men's variant is better, skip the pink packaging or choose unisex products.

Instead of comparing prices of the entire package, check the price per unit. For example, compare cost per ml or gram before buying. This can lead to huge savings over time. Often, salons charge more for girls/women even for "basic" short haircuts. Bargain to save a considerable amount. Ask for gender-neutral pricing or visit unisex salons that offer fair and transparent pricing. Compare the cost of men's and women's variants in e-commerce websites before rushing to buy.

Do some research. There are some Indian start-ups that market themselves as gender-neutral and pocket-friendly brands. Further, there are several consumer advocacy groups that campaign for the cause; supporting them could encourage a shift toward fair pricing.

NCDRC ruling

While there are no specific laws in India to address the issue of Pink Tax, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission ruled that companies must follow fair pricing policies and avoid gender-based price discrimination.

The Pink Tax exists because you pay quietly. If people started comparing prices and switched smartly, markets might ensure fair pricing. Avoiding the pink tax is not just about saving money, it's also about claiming equality in the marketplace.

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager and certified in NISM's Research Analyst module)

Dynamic or standard SIP?

THINKINVESTOR

You must design a rule to setup a dynamic SIP (systematic investment plan) and implement it consistently. Note, an auto-debit may not work for such custom-tailored rule

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Gold prices have jumped more than 40% in one year. If you have been investing in a gold ETF through a systematic investment plan (SIP), think about this: You are investing the same amount of money despite the sharp increase in gold price. Is that optimal? In this article, we discuss whether you should tailor your SIP based on the market price of an asset.

Tailing the market

Critics of SIP have a point; investing the same amount despite a sharp increase in the asset price exposes your investment to huge downside risk, unless you take profits on a continual basis. The suggestion is to invest more when prices fall and cut the investment size when price increases. Such a dynamic SIP is meant to tail the market.

But to setup such an SIP, you need to consider several factors. One, the amount that you invest will vary on a continual basis. This could stress your current consumption because you may have to save and invest more in some months. Two, you must specify a cap (maximum) and a floor (minimum) that you will invest every month. Otherwise, you may have to invest large amounts of money when the market tanks.

And three, you may have to adjust the SIP amount manually, as asset management companies (AMCs) and brokerage firms may not offer such a facility. Is dynamic SIP worth the effort? It could be, if you can apply a rule-based process.

Suppose you expect 12% return on your investments every year, or 1% per month. Suppose your investment generates 4% this month. Then, you could invest 0.97 times the standard SIP amount. You earned three percentage points more than the expected return this month. So, you deduct three percentage points of excess returns from 1 to arrive at multiplier. And, if the return were 6%, you would invest only 0.95 times the standard SIP amount.

Conclusion

You must design a rule to setup a dynamic SIP and implement it consistently. Note an auto-debit may not work for such a custom-tailored rule. If you believe you will be unable to apply this process every month, you could setup a standard SIP with an add-on feature.

During months the market tanks, you can invest some lump-sum money in addition to your standard SIP. But you have to invest the standard SIP amount during months the market rises significantly.

(The author offers training programs for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — Loan amount 1 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	9.99 #	10,621 #	2,124 #	Up to Rs 6,500
Tata Capital	11.50 #	10,996 #	2,199 #	Up to 3.5%
State Bank of India	10.05-15.05	10,636-11,908	2,127-2,382	Up to 1.5% (Min. Rs 1,000; Max. Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.60 #	10,772 #	2,154 #	Up to 2%
Bank of Baroda*	10.40-18.10	10,722-12,724	2,144-2,545	Up to 2% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	9.99-22.00	10,621-13,809	2,124-2,762	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	9.98 #	10,619 #	2,124 #	Up to 5%
Bank of India	11.10-16.15	10,896-12,199	2,179-2,440	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 250; Max. Rs 15,000)
Canara Bank	9.95-15.40	10,611-12,000	2,122-2,400	Up to 0.25% (Max. Rs 2,500)
Punjab National Bank	10.50-17.05	10,747-12,440	2,149-2,488	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	10.15 #	10,660 #	2,132 #	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.99 #	11,120 #	2,224 #	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	10.35-14.45	10,710-11,751	2,142-2,350	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	10.00-31.00	10,624-16,485	2,125-3,297	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	9.85-12.90	10,587-11,351	2,117-2,270	0.50%-1%
Indian Overseas Bank	10.50 #	10,747 #	2,149 #	Up to 0.75%
UCO Bank	10.20-13.45	10,673-11,492	2,135-2,298	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 750)
IDFC FIRST Bank	9.99 #	10,621 #	2,124 #	2%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.00-13.80	10,379-11,582	2,076-2,316	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Central Bank of India	9.90-11.90	10,599-11,097	2,120-2,219	Up to 1%
IndusInd Bank	10.49 #	10,744 #	2,149 #	Up to 3.5%

*Interest concession of 0.10% to customers opting for group credit life insurance — #onwards

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

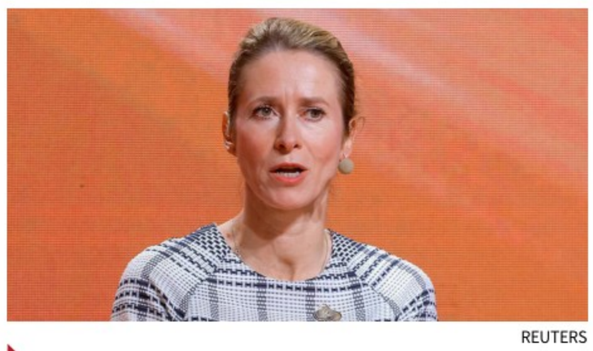
Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	7.80-9.70	10,090 - 10,550	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	7.85-9.70	10,102 - 10,550	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.15-11.60	10,174 - 11,021	Up to Rs. 2,000
Bank of India	7.85-12.15	10,102 - 11,160	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 10,000)
UCO Bank	7.60-10.25	10,043 - 10,685	0.50% (Rs 5,000)
State Bank of India	8.85-9.90	10,343 - 10,599	Rs 750 - Rs 1,500
IDBI Bank	8.30-9.15	10,210 - 10,416	Rs 2,500 (Zero processing fee till 30.09.2025)
Bank of Maharashtra*	7.70-12.00	10,067 - 11,122	Up to 0.25% of loan (max. up to Rs. 15,000)
Indian Overseas Bank	7.80-12.00	10,090 - 11,122	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	9.10 onwards	10,403 onwards	Up to 2%
HDFC Bank	9.20 onwards	10,428 onwards	Up to 1% (Rs. 3,500 - Rs. 9,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.95-11.64	10,367 - 11,031	Up to 0.60% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 11,000)
Federal Bank	10.00 onwards	10,624 onwards	Rs. 2,000 - Rs. 4,500
Punjab and Sind Bank**	7.75-14.25	10,078 - 11,699	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)
Indian Bank	7.75-9.85	10,078 - 10,587	Rs. 1,000
Central Bank of India	7.85-9.45	10,102 - 10,489	0.50% of loan amount (Rs. 2,000 - Rs. 20,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing home loan, other existing customers with a tleast 6 months relationship with the bank
**Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam.

Rates and charges as on Sept. 10 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

BRUSSELS

Violation of Romanian airspace by Russian drones 'unacceptable': EU



REUTERS

The European Union's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas on Sunday slammed as "unacceptable" the entry of a Russian drone into Romanian airspace, accusing Moscow of a "reckless escalation". "This continued reckless escalation threatens regional security. We stand in solidarity with Romania," Ms. Kallas wrote on X. AFP

NIGERIA

'Bandits' kill one man, kidnap 18 women and children in Nigeria

AP

Gunmen killed one man and abducted 18 women and children during a raid on a village in Nigeria's Zamfar state, in the northwest, local sources said on Saturday. The attackers, from kidnap and cattle-rustling gangs known as "bandits", stormed Birnin Zarma village at dawn Friday in the latest violence in the region. AFP

LONDON

U.K. police vow 'further arrests' after far-right rally violence

REUTERS

The London police vowed on Sunday more arrests after violence erupted at anti-immigration activist Tommy Robinson's far-right rally, with 1,50,000 attending. So far, 24 people were arrested after officers faced "unacceptable violence". It said offences included assault, criminal damage, and possession of weapon. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's flood spending, budget agility to be reviewed, says IMF

REUTERS

The International Monetary Fund expressed deep condolences on Saturday for the loss of life caused by Pakistan's devastating floods, and said its upcoming Extended Fund Facility review mission will evaluate whether the country's fiscal policies and emergency provisions can effectively address the crisis, an official said. REUTERS

Karki vows to follow Gen Z demand to 'end corruption'

A fifth of people in Nepal aged 15-24 are unemployed, according to the World Bank, with GDP per capita standing at just $1,447; deadly unrest left at least 72 people killed and over 2,100 injured

Agence France-Presse
KATHMANDU

Nepal's new leader vowed on Sunday to follow protesters' demands to "end corruption" as she began work as interim Prime Minister, after "Gen Z" youth demonstrations ousted her predecessor.

Sushila Karki, the 73-year-old former Chief Justice, has been tasked with restoring order and addressing protesters' demands for a corruption-free future ahead of elections in six months.

"We have to work according to the thinking of the Gen Z generation," Ms. Karki said in her first public comments since taking office on Friday.

Holding the fort: Sushila Karki arrives to take charge of the Prime Minister's office in Kathmandu on Sunday. AFP

A fifth of people in Nepal aged 15-24 are unemployed, according to the World Bank, with GDP per capita standing at just $1,447, in the Himalayan nation of 30 million people. "What this group is demanding is the end of corruption, good governance and economic equality," she added.

Ms. Karki also said that those involved in violence and destruction across the country during the protests will be brought to justice, and those who were killed will be declared "martyrs".

At least 72 people were killed in two days of protests, and 191 injured, the government's chief secretary Eaknarayan Aryal said on Sunday, increasing an earlier toll of 51.

The Ministry's latest updated data showed at least 2,113 people were injured.

It was the worst unrest since the end of a decade-long civil war and the abolition of the monarchy in 2008.

(With inputs from Reuters)

China hails Nepal ties, congratulates new PM Karki

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

China on Sunday congratulated Sushila Karki on taking office as the Prime Minister of Nepal's interim government, stressing the "time-honoured friendship" between the two neighbouring countries.

"China congratulates Madam Sushila Karki on becoming Prime Minister of Nepal's interim government," a spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry said.

"China and Nepal share a time-honoured friendship. China, as always, respects the development path chosen independently by the people of Nepal," the spokesperson said. "We stand ready to work with Nepal to promote the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence".

Ukraine launches drones at major Russian refinery

Reuters
MOSCOW

Ukraine launched a big attack with at least 361 drones targeting Russia overnight, sparking a brief fire at the vast Kirishi oil refinery in Russia's northwest, Russian officials said on Sunday, reporting no injuries.

As big powers talk about how to end the deadliest conflict in Europe since the Second World War, the drone war has escalated, with Russian drones downed in NATO-member Poland and attacks by Ukraine against oil refineries and pipelines in Russia, the world's second biggest oil exporter.

Russia's Defence Ministry said at least 361 drones had been shot down by Russian air defence systems, including four guided aerial bombs and a U.S.-made HIMARS missile. It did not give details about the location of the attacks.

Russia's Defence Ministry said at least 361 drones had been shot down by Russian air defence systems. REUTERS

Surgutneftegaz's Kirishinefteorgsintez refinery, one of the top two refineries in Russia, was among the targets attacked by Ukrainian drones, Russian officials said.

Alexander Drozdenko, the governor of the Leningrad region, said that three drones were destroyed in the Kirishi area and that a fire sparked by falling debris had been put out. He said no one was injured.

Ukraine's drone command confirmed it attacked the refinery and said it had "carried out a successful strike".

Kirishi refines about 17.7 million metric tonnes per year of Russian crude, or 6.4% of the country's total.

Palestinians flee Gaza City as Israel issues evacuation warnings

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Palestinian families streamed out of Gaza City on Sunday, some crammed into pick-up trucks, others on foot, as Israeli forces pressed their assault on the territory's main urban centre.

The military has issued multiple evacuation warnings for Gaza City, but many residents have said they have nowhere else to go, noting that Israel has repeatedly struck the area in the south where it has urged people to move.

The Israeli military's Arabic-language spokesperson, Avichay Adraee, issued on Sunday a warning to those in Gaza's port area and Al-Rimal neighbourhood to evacuate immediately to a "humanitarian zone" in the south, where Gazans say there is no more space to pitch tents.

Prior to the latest assault, the United Nations had estimated that around a million people lived in and around the city.

Russia flexes military muscle with hypersonic missiles and bombers

Reuters
MOSCOW

Russia said on Sunday that it had fired a Zircon hypersonic cruise missile at a target in the Barents Sea and that Sukoi Su-34 supersonic fighter-bombers had carried out strikes as part of joint military exercises with Belarus.

Russia's "Zapad", or West, joint strategic exercise with Belarus began on September 12 aiming to improve military command and coordination in the event of an attack on either Russia or Belarus, the Defence Ministry said.

Russian Northern Fleet frigate *Admiral Golovko* launches a Zircon hypersonic missile in the Barents Sea on Sunday. REUTERS

Moscow and Minsk have said the exercises are exclusively defensive and that they do not intend to attack any NATO member, though the U.S.-led military alliance announced an "Eastern Sentry" operation after the incursion of Russian drones into Poland on September 9-10.

"According to objective monitoring data received in real time, the target was destroyed by a direct hit," the Ministry said.

The Ministry said that long-range anti-submarine aircraft of the Northern Fleet's mixed aviation corps were also involved in the exercise.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in 2019 that the Zircon can fly at nine times the speed of sound and hit targets at sea and on land at a range of more than 1,000 km.

Qatar PM urges world to 'punish Israel for its crimes'

Agence France-Presse
DOHA

Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani urged the international community on Sunday to "stop using double standards" and punish Israel for what he described as its "crimes". He was speaking at a preparatory meeting on the eve of an emergency summit of Arab and Islamic leaders organised by Qatar after Israel carried out an unprecedented air strike on Hamas leaders in Doha.

"The time has come for the international community to stop using double standards and to punish Israel for all the crimes it has committed, and Israel needs to know that the ongoing war of extermination that our brotherly Palestinian people is being subjected to will not work," the Prime Minister said.

Qatar plays a key mediation role in the Israel-Hamas war, alongside the United States and Egypt.

Sport

Satwik-Chirag, Lakshya finish runner-up

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
HONG KONG

Lakshya Sen and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty signed off with runner-up finishes at the Hong Kong Open Super 500 badminton here on Sunday.

Lakshya could not blunt the attack of world No. 4 Li Shi Feng and went down 15-21, 12-21 in a rather sedate men's singles final.

Satwik and Chirag, who bagged a second successive World Championships bronze last month, let go of a one-game advantage before losing 21-19, 14-21, 17-21 to China's Olympic silver medallists Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang in a tense 61-minute men's doubles summit clash.

Great feeling

"Yeah, obviously feels good. Been a good week, especially after the World championships a week later and here we are playing a final. Feels good," Chirag said. "You would want to go and win that title but I think, credit to them, they played well. There's always a next time and overall happy with the performance."

For Lakshya, it was his first final since the Syed Modi Super 300 last November, but he could not match his familiar foe Li, against whom he was playing for the 14th time in a rivalry dating back to their junior days. It is now 7-7.

Chhetri back in the fold

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Sunil Chhetri has been included in the probables for AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Singapore.

The probables: Goalkeepers: Amrinder Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.
Defenders: Anwar Ali, Bikash Yumnam, Chinglensana Singh Konsham, Hmingthanmawia Ralte, Muhammed Uvais, Pramveer, Rahul Bheke, Ricky Meetei Haobam, Roshan Singh Naorem.
Midfielders: Ashique Kuruniyan, Danish Farooq Bhat, Jeakson Singh Thounaojam, Jithin MS, Macarton Louis Nickson, Mahesh Singh Naorem, Mohammed Aimen, Nikhil Prabhu, Suresh Singh Wangjam, Vibin Mohanan.
Forwards: Irfan Yadwad, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Manvir Singh (jr), Mohammed Sanan K, Muhammed Suhail, Parthib Gogoi, Sunil Chhetri, Vikram Partap Singh.

Corte Madera for S. Malakonda Reddy Memorial Cup

RACING

HYDERABAD: The three-year-old colt Corte Madera may score over his rivals in the S. Malakonda Reddy Memorial Cup, the chief event of Monday's (Sept. 15) races.

1 ASIFABAD PLATE (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 1.55 p.m.: 1. City Cruise (6) Md. Ekram 60, 2. Dali's Champion (8) Kuldeep Sr. 2, 3. Exponent (7) Abhay Singh 60, 4. If You Like It (1) Mukesh K 58.5, 5. Muaser (5) P. Ajeeth K 58.5, 6. Bien Pensant (2) Surya Prakash 58, 7. Fortune Art (4) B.R. Kumar 56.5 and 8. Deccan Ranger (3) Akshay K 54.5.
1. DECCAN RANGER,
2. FORTUNE ART,
3. DALI'S CHAMPION

2 SILVER JET PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 2.30: 1. Darling's Boy (6) Kuldeep Jr. 60, 2. Ragnarök (3) Mukesh K 59.5, 3. Diablo (1) P. Sai K 58, 4. Calista Girl (9) Gaurav 57, 5. Lucky Zone (4) Surya Prakash 57, 6. Calistoga (5) Akshay K 56.5, 7. Best Buddy (2) Nakhat 56, 8. Golden Gazelle (8) H.M. Akshay 54.5, 9. Kings Best (10) Md. Ismail 54.5 and 10. Kalki (7) Abhay Singh 51.5.
1. DARLING'S BOY,
2. RAGNAROK,
3. KALKI

3 NELSTON PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.05: 1. Sargent (5) H.M. Akshay 60, 2. Mountain Touch (4) Ajay K 59, 3. Shooting Star (1) P. Ajeeth K 58.5, 4. My Challenge (2) G. Naresh 57.5, 5. Eminency (3) Sonu K 55.5, 6. Lego (6) Ashad Asbar 55.5, 7. Alcahol Free (7) Rafique Sk. 54.5, 8. Peanut (9) Mukesh K 53.5 and 9. Opera Queen (8) Santosh Raj 50.5.
1. MY CHALLENGE,
2. LEGO,
3. MOUNTAIN TOUCH

4 S. MALAKONDA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,800m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.40: 1. Dapper Look (7) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Black Dust (2) P. Sai K 56, 3. Newfound Glory (6) Ajay K 56, 4. Perfect Light (3) B.R. Kumar 55.5, 5. Just Incredible (1) B. Nikhil 55, 6. Krystallos (5) Ashad Asbar 53.5 and 7. Corte Madera (4) Akshay K 51.
1. CORTE MADERA,
2. PERFECT LIGHT,
3. BLACK DUST

5 BHADRACHALAM CUP (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.15: 1. Knight Crusader (8) B.R. Kumar 60, 2. Fly Tothe Stars (4) Rafique Sk. 59.5, 3. Calabasas (9) Akshay K 55.5, 4. Clara (6) I. Chisty 54.5, 5. Rolls Royce (7) Abhay Singh 53, 6. Blissful (2) Md. Ekram 52.5, 7. Hurricane Wave (3) Afroz K 52.5, 8. Knotty Senorita (1) P. Sai K 52.5 and 9. Her Ladyship (5) Kuldeep Sr. 51.5.
1. CALABASAS,
2. CLARA,
3. KNIGHT CRUSADER

6 SILVER JET PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 4.50: 1. Shadow Of The Moon (9) Afroz K 61.5, 2. Decoy (4) Mukesh K 58.5, 3. Espionage (8) Kuldeep Sr. 57.5, 4. Encore (1) R.S. Jodha 56.5, 5. Kingston (6) Abhay Singh 55.5, 6. She Can (2) Neeraj 55, 7. Dali's Destiny (10) Gaurav 54, 8. Brooklyn Beauty (3) B. Nikhil 53.5, 9. Star Forever (7) Ajay K 53 and 10. Torchbearer (5) Ashad Asbar 53.
1. SHE CAN,
2. DECOY,
3. STAR FOREVER
Day's Best: **CORTE MADERA**
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Mini Jackpot: 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6.
Tanala: All races.

Star Of Night triumphs

HYDERABAD: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram's Star Of Night, ridden by B.R. Kumar, won the President Of India Gold Cup, the feature event of Sunday's (Sept. 14) races. The winner is trained by R.H. Sequeira.

1. NARAYANPET PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): ZUZA (P. Trevor) 1, Double Bubble (Akshay K) 2, Assured Success (Mohit) 3 and Analysis (G. Naresh) 4. 3/4, 3 and Head. Im, 15.21s. ₹35 (w), 15, 13 and 30 (p). SHP: 23, THP: 49, SHW: 15 and 27, FP: 81, Q: 42, Tanala: 1,124. Favourite: Analysis. Owner: Miss Yashaswi Dilip Galvankar. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

2. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE CUP (1,400M): PERCEPTION (Akshay Kumar) 1, Brilliant Lad (P. Sai K) 2, Gloria (Trevor) 3 and Federer (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 4-1/4, 2-1/2 and 8. 1m, 26.72s. ₹25 (w), 11, 10 and 13 (p). SHP: 42, THP: 22, SHW: 13 and 10, FP: 60, Q: 21, Tanala: 82. Favourite: Brilliant Lad. Owner: Mr. Rakesh Reddy Kondakalla. Trainer: Robin R. Kondakalla.

3. TOTARAM'S CUP (1,600M): NOBLE HEART (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Great Giver (Kuldeep Jr.) 2, Armstrong (Deepak) 3 and China Town (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 4, 2-1/2 and 2. 1m, 41.07s. ₹16 (w), 10, 19 and 18 (p). SHP: 77, THP: 34, SHW: 11 and 58, FP: 177, Q: 122, Tanala: 537. Favourite: Noble Heart. Owned & Trained by Mr. Donald Anthony Netto.

4. ARTILLERY CUP (1,100M): CITY OF MOKSHA (Ajay Kumar) 1, Foxy Girl (H.M. Akshay) 2, State Man (Akshay K) 3 and Quintessential (Ashad Asbar) 4. 5, Head and 1-1/2. 1m, 7.27s. ₹33 (w), 18, 21 and 10 (p). SHP: 49, THP: 59, SHW: 11 and 23, FP: 401, Q: 171, Tanala: 736. Favourite: State Man. Owner: Mr. K. Tribhuvan Reddy. Trainer: N. Rawal.

5. PRESIDENT OF INDIA GOLD CUP (GR. II) (2,400M): STAR OF NIGHT (B.R. Kumar) 1, Pyrite (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Dyf (Trevor) 3 and Queen Of Kings (A.A. Vikrant) 4. 1, Head and 1/2. 2m, 32.60s. ₹53 (w), 13, 21 and 10 (p). SHP: 69, THP: 93, SHW: 19 and 35, FP: 651, Q: 260, Tanala: 916. Favourite: Dyf. Owner: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

NOTE: *Mescalito (Akshay K up) planted in the stalls and did not participate.*

6. NARAYANPET PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): DASHING CHARM (Ashad Asbar) 1, Cherish The Lady (P. Sai K) 2, Top In Class (Deepak) 3 and Lights On (Abhay Singh) 4. 3-1/4, 7-1/2 and 2. 1m, 14.99s. ₹91 (w), 16, 15 and 26 (p). SHP: 29, THP: 134, SHW: 72 and 10, FP: 184, Q: 55, Tanala: 1,588. Favourite: Cherish The Lady. Owners: Mr. Champaklal Zaveri & Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri rep. Zaveri Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd., Miss. Harsha N. Desai & Miss. Niti N. Desai. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

NOTE: *Royal Parade (R.S. Jodha astride) stumbled and fell down near 400m. Jodha escaped with minor injuries.*

Jackpot: 70%: ₹18, 180 (10 tkts.) & 30%: 1,052 (74 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: 8,569 (5 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 184 (97 tkts.), 3,585 (5 tkts.).

TRIBUTE

We dedicate this victory to the armed forces, says Suryakumar

AP

On the decision of the Indian players to avoid exchanging handshakes with the Pakistanis after the Asia Cup fixture on Sunday, skipper Suryakumar Yadav said: "We were aligned with the BCCI and government. We came here to just play the game. We gave a proper reply... we dedicate this win to the armed forces".

COMMENDABLE

'The spinners are working hard and very clear with their plans'

AP

Suryakumar Yadav was pleased with the performance of his spinners after another commanding victory over Pakistan in the Asia Cup on Sunday. "The spinners are working hard. They are very clear with their plans, and are happy with the ends they are bowling from. It is good to see all the spinners firing," he said.

TOP MOVE

Vaishali posts win, back in joint lead; Arjun, Nihal held to draws

FIDE

R. Vaishali defeated Maria Muzychuk in the 10th round of the women's section in the FIDE Grand Swiss in Samarkand to share the lead with Katernya Lagno with 7.5 points. In the Open section, Arjun Erigaisi and Nihal Sarin settled for draws with Yu Yangi and Nodirbek Abdusattarov to be in the joint second spot.

HONOURS EVEN

Rain denies England and South Africa a series decider

REUTERS

Rain had the final say as England's T20 series decider against South Africa at Trent Bridge on Sunday was washed out without a ball being bowled. Phil Salt's astounding 141 not out had helped the hosts to a record-breaking 146-run win at Old Trafford on Friday to level the three-match series 1-1.

Kuldeep, Axar leave Pakistan in a daze

The two combine to pick up five wickets and restrict the opposition to a modest total; Abhishek, Suryakumar and Tilak star in the chase

ASIA CUP

Vivek Krishnan
DUBAI

A nervy evening at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium turned into a night of celebration for India as Suryakumar Yadav's team maintained its stranglehold over Pakistan. In a Group-A battle of the arch-rivals at the Asia Cup on Sunday, India strolled to a target of 128 in 15.5 overs with seven wickets in hand to virtually seal qualification for the Super Four phase. Post victory, the two teams did not exchange customary handshakes.

The crushing triumph was set up by the Indian bowlers, who restricted Salman Agha's men to 127 for nine in 20 overs. Shaheen Afridi's unbeaten 33 off 16 balls at No. 9 was the lone silver lining for Pakistan with the bat.

India's crafty attack was at its very best. Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav was again the ace in the pack with figures of 4-0-18-3, and was ably assisted by Axar Patel, Varun Chakravarthy and Jasprit Bumrah.

The job was completed by India's formidable batting unit. The chase began with Abhishek Sharma thumping Shaheen for a four and six. Shubman Gill also struck successive boundaries against Saim Ayub, who claimed three wickets, before being stumped. Abhishek went on to hammer a 13-ball 31 as India motored to 42 for two in four overs.

With the asking rate in control, the rest of the batters did not have to do anything daft. Suryakumar did as required with an unbeaten 47 off 37 balls.

For the Indian fans to break into thunderous applause at the start of the game, it took no time. Off the first legitimate delivery of the game, Hardik Pandya dismissed Saim as his airy drive spooned to Bumrah at backward point. Next over, Hardik sprinted from fine leg and held onto a skier from Mohammad Haris to give Bumrah his opening breakthrough.

On a sluggish surface, Fakhar Zaman tried to play the role of aggressor. Twice in the third over, he got Hardik away for boundaries.

At the other end, Sahibzada Farhan clumped Bumrah for two sixes before the field restrictions eased. Yet, Pakistan had ambled along to 42 for two in six overs with Farhan at a run-a-ball 19.

With the desperation of the Pakistan batters mounting, it was easy to foretell Fakhar's attempted slog when Axar came into the attack in the eighth over. To the latter's credit, he gave the ball a bit of air and drew the left-hand batter into a miscue that carried to long-on. In his very next over, Axar would also trap Salman in his net.

Not much of a revival was in store for the Pakistanis as wickets kept tumbling. Kuldeep joined the jamboree with back-to-back breakthroughs of Hasan Nawaz and Mohammad Nawaz, reducing the rival to 64 for six in 12.5 overs.

Considering India's firm grip on proceedings, Pakistan's ambition in the latter overs was limited to looking for a fighting total.

Hopes were pinned on Farhan, but after a subpar 40, he succumbed off his 44th delivery for Kuldeep's third scalp of the innings.

On Monday: UAE vs Oman, Abu Dhabi, 5.30 p.m. IST.; Sri Lanka vs Hong Kong, Dubai, 8 p.m.

To the fore again: Kuldeep's bag of tricks proved too much for the Pakistan batters. AP

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN

Saim Ayub c Bumrah b Hardik 0 *(1b)*, Sahibzada Farhan c Hardik b Kuldeep 40 *(44b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Mohammad Haris c Hardik b Bumrah 3 *(5b)*, Fakhar Zaman c Tilak b Axar 17 *(15b, 3x4)*, Salman Agha c Abhishek b Axar 3 *(12b)*, Hasan Nawaz c Axar b Kuldeep 5 *(7b)*, Mohammad Nawaz lbw b Kuldeep 0 *(1b)*, Faheem Ashraf lbw b Varun 11 *(14b, 1x4)*, Shaheen Shah Afridi (not out) 33 *(16b, 4x6)*, Sufiyan Muqeem b Bumrah 10 *(6b, 2x4)*, Abrar Ahmed (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (w-4, nb-1): 5; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 127.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Ayub, 0.1 ov), 2-6 (Haris, 1.2), 3-45 (Zaman, 7.4), 4-49 (Agha, 9.6), 5-64 (Hasan, 12.4), 6-64 (Nawaz, 12.5), 7-83 (Farhan, 16.1), 8-97 (Ashraf, 17.4), 9-111 (Muqeem, 18.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Hardik 3-0-34-1, Bumrah 4-0-28-2, Varun 4-0-24-1, Kuldeep 4-0-18-3, Axar 4-0-18-2, Abhishek 1-0-5-0.

INDIA

Abhishek Sharma c Ashraf b Ayub 31 *(13b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Shubman Gill st. Haris b Ayub 10 *(7b, 2x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav (not out) 47 *(37b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Tilak Varma b Ayub 31 *(31b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Shivam Dube (not out) 10 *(7b, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for three wkts. in 15.5 overs): 131.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-22 (Gill, 1.6), 2-41 (Abhishek, 3.4), 3-97 (Tilak, 12.2).

PAKISTAN BOWLING

Afridi 2-0-23-0, Ayub 4-0-35-3, Abrar 4-0-16-0, Mohammad Nawaz 3-0-27-0, Muqeem 2.5-0-29-0.

Toss: Pakistan; **PoM:** Kuldeep.
India won by seven wickets with 25 balls to spare.
India's next match: Sept. 19 vs. Oman, Abu Dhabi, 8 p.m. IST.

Doing India proud: BFI president Ajay Singh with the medallists Jaismine, Minakshi, Nupur and Pooja. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Minakshi, Jaismine punch gold at Worlds

Sports Bureau

Minakshi Hooda and Jaismine Lamboria, both aged 24, upset two Paris Olympics medallists and top seeds in their respective weight classes to emerge as champions in the World boxing championships in Liverpool.

Rurki girl Minakshi got past Kazakh Paris Olympics bronze medallist Nazym Kyzaibay 4-1 in the women's 48kg final on Sunday, while Bhiwani's Jaismine rallied to stun Polish Olympics silver medallist Julia Szeremeta 4-1 in the 57kg summit clash late on Saturday night.

Indian women finished with two gold, a silver and a bronze, while the men drew a blank.

The taller Minakshi's plan to move in and out to land her punches worked well as she stayed 4-1 up in the opening round. Nazym stepped up attack by closing the gap and had a 3-2 edge in the second round.

However, Minakshi, an Asian silver medallist in 52kg in 2022, found the target from a distance to negate the effect of some solid blows from the Kazakh and avenged her defeat at the Astana World Boxing Cup in July.

Olympian Jaismine, a lanky southpaw who claimed a gold in Astana, showed her effortless footwork and counter-attacks from a long range, whereas Julia landed body punches to take the first round 3-2.

Bobbing and weaving nicely, Julia found ways to hit the target. In reply, a patient Jaismine maintained her composure, stepped back beautifully and connected her counters to bounce back in the evenly-contested second round with a 5-0 verdict.

In the crucial final period, Jaismine grew in confidence to exhibit her evasive skills against an attacking Julia. The Indian also delivered her blows well to walk away as the winner.

Nupur lost to Poland's Agata Kaczmarska 3-2 in a hard-fought +80kg title clash to take silver.

Pooja Rani (80kg) won the first round before falling to England's Emily Asquith 4-1 in the semifinals and bagged bronze.

Australia's World Cup prep off to a perfect start

AUS-W IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NEW CHANDIGARH

Their last ODI was in January. But such things matter not for these Australian women. They chased down India's 281 for seven, with eight wickets and 5.5 overs to spare, at the PCA Stadium on Sunday night, to go up 1-0 in the three-match series.

That was also a warning for India and other teams ahead of the World Cup.

Australia's eighth ODI win in a row against India was set up by opener Phoebe Litchfield (88, 80b, 14x4), who made India rue the couple of chances she gave, including one when she was on nought, Beth Mooney (77 not out, 74b, 9x4), and Annabel Sutherland (54 not out, 51b, 6x4).

Ellyse Perry had to retire because of a cramp after adding 79 for the second wicket.

Earlier, the host's top three got going, but got out when they shouldn't have. The Indian women must have been hoping to score more than 300 – something they never could against the Aussies - Pratika Rawal (64, 96b, 6x4) and Smriti Mandhana (58, 63b, 6x4, 2x6) put on 114, their fifth century stand in just 15 innings; no Indian opening pair has more three-figure stands.

But they wouldn't want to remember how their partnership ended: Smriti was run out by a direct hit from Litchfield from extra cover, Pratika not having travelled much from the non-striking end.

The left-handed stylist had been looking good, with her fluent drives and a couple of sweetly struck sixes. Harleen Deol (54, 57b, 4x4, 2x6) accelerated at the right time after Pratika failed to connect her slog-sweep properly against Alana King.

Then Harleen stepped out against Megan Schutt only to be stumped by Alyssa Healy, who was standing up to the seamer. Cameos from Richa Sharma, Deepti Sharma and Radha Yadav made the Indian total respectable.

Not respectable enough, it would turn out.

The scores:
India 281/7 in 50 overs (Pratika Rawal 64, Smriti Mandhana 58, Harleen Deol 54) lost to Australia 282/2 in 44.1 overs (Phoebe Litchfield 88, Beth Mooney 77 n.o., Annabel Sutherland 54 n.o.).
Toss: India; **PoM:** Litchfield.

Boundaries galore: Litchfield's 80-ball 88 contained 14 fours. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

China bulldozes India, secures a spot in World Cup

Press Trust of India
HANGZHOU

The Indian women's hockey team faltered when it mattered the most, losing 1-4 to China in the final of Asia Cup to miss out on direct qualification for next year's World Cup, here on Sunday.

India drew the first blood through a penalty corner conversion by Navneet Kaur in the first minute itself before China came into their own, scoring through Zixia Ou (21st minute), Hong Li (41st), Meirong Zou (51st) and Jiaqi Zhong (53rd) to win their third title in tournament and secure their passage to the 2026 World Cup, to be held in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Both the teams went into half-time break locked at 1-1.

In the 51st minute, Meirong Zou scored and Jiaqi Zhong added another field goal two minutes later to complete the tally.

The result:
India 1 (Navneet Kaur 1) lost to China 4 (Zixia Ou 21, Hong Li 41, Meirong Zou 51, Jiaqi Zhong 53).

Heartbreaker: Liverpool's Salah fires home from the spot in injury time. AP

Liverpool huffs and puffs to beat Burnley

Agencies
BURNLEY

Mohamed Salah's dramatic stoppage-time penalty ensured Liverpool maintained its winning start to the Premier League season with a 1-0 victory at promoted side Burnley on Sunday.

The champion struggled to break down a dogged home side in the first half.

Burnley was holding on for a well-earned point with ease, before the ball agonisingly struck substitute Hannibal Mejbri's arm in the penalty area and Salah slotted the spot kick into the net in the 95th minute to break home hearts.

Meanwhile, Erling Haaland struck twice as Manchester City inflicted another damaging defeat on Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim with a comprehensive 3-0 win.

The results:

Premier League: Burnley 0 lost to Liverpool 1 (Salah 90+5-pen), Manchester City 3 (Foden 18, Haaland 53, 68) bt Manchester United 0.
Serie A: Atalanta 4 (Scalvini 37, De Ketelaere 51, 74 Zalewski 70) bt Lecce 1 (N'Dri 82).
On Saturday: Premier League: Brentford 2 (Schade 35, Carvalho 90+3) drew with Chelsea 2 (Palmer 61, Caicedo 85).
LaLiga: Atletico Madrid 2 (Barrios 9, Gonzalez 52) bt Villarreal 0.
Serie A: Fiorentina 1 (Ranieri 79) lost to Napoli 3 (De Bruyne 6-pen, Hojlund 14, Beukema 51).
Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 5 (Gnabry 3, Pavlovic 9, Kane 26-pen, 62, Diaz 29) bt Hamburg 0.

Aman forfeits bout at Worlds, faces action

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Aman Sehrawat. FILE PHOTO

India faced a major embarrassment on Sunday as Paris Olympics bronze medallist Aman Sehrawat could not cut his weight to fit into the men's 57kg weight class and forfeited his match at the World wrestling championships in Zagreb.

As Aman could not fight in his qualification round match, his opponent Vladimir Egorov of North Macedonia progressed to the pre-quarterfinals.

It was a shocking development for the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) as the third-seeded Aman was a strong medal contender at the elite event. It is reliably learnt that overnight he weighed 1.7kg more than the required weight.

"Aman pulled out as he could not reduce his weight enough in the morning. He is an experienced wrestler and was a witness to a similar embarrassment (due to Vinesh Phogat's overweight issue which resulted in India losing out on a medal) at the Paris Olympics. It seems he has not learnt anything from that episode," WFI president Sanjay Singh told *The Hindu*.

The WFI, which recently suspended up-and-coming wrestler Neha Sangwan for two years for being overweight in an international event, will take action against Aman.

"Both the wrestler (Aman) and the support staff, who are assisting him, are responsible for this. Strict action will be taken against both. They have wasted a lot of Government money, which was spent for the (15-day) preparatory camp abroad," said Singh.

INBRIEF

Meghana clinches bronze medal in air rifle

Meghana Sajjanar clinched bronze in women's air rifle in the World Cup in Ningbo on Sunday.

The results: 10m air rifle: Women: 1. Peng Xinlu (Chn) 255.3 (WR) 637.4; 2. Jeanette-Hegg Duestad (Nor) 252.6 (634.1); 3. Meghana Sajjanar 230.0 (632.6); 22. Ramita Jindal 629.8; 48. Kashika Pradhan 626.6; **RPO:** Mehuli Ghosh 631.8. **50m rifle 3-position: Men:** 1. Jiri Privratsky (Cze) 465.3 (594); 2. Dmitrii Pimenov (AIN) 464.3 (588); 3. Jon-Hermann Hegg (Nor) 450.6 (589); 8. Kiran Jadhav 406.7 (590).

Dahiya wins 86kg repechage to reach the bronze match

Mukul Dahiya (86kg, freestyle) defeated Algeria's Fateh Benferdjallah 11-1 in a repechage fight to reach the bronze at World wrestling in Zagreb on Sunday. Vikash Kumar (74kg) and Amit (79kg) lost their first round matches.

Abhay goes down to world No. 9 Ibrahim in round-of-32

Abhay Singh lost to world No. 9 Youssef Ibrahim 4-11, 10-12, 11-5, 7-11 in the round-of-32 of the Egyptian Open, a $366,000 PSA World Tour Diamond event in Giza on Saturday night.

LIVE TELECAST

Duleep Trophy: (final), day 5, Star Sports Khel & JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
World Athletics Championships: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 4 p.m.
Men's Asia Cup: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 5.30 & 8 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 10 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Seville, Jefferson-Wooden blaze to 100m glory

Allman finally wins the title in women's discus; Gressier and Jepchirchir also emerge champions; Kushare qualifies for men's high jump final

ATHLETICS

Agencies
TOKYO

Oblique Seville scorched to the World 100m gold in a personal best 9.77 seconds on Sunday, leading a Jamaican 1-2 ahead of Olympic silver medallist Kishane Thompson, second again in 9.82. Defending champion Noah Lyles took bronze in 9.89 as USA failed to take the title for the first time since 2015.

Seville had looked the man to beat through the rounds in last year's Olympics but finished last in the final. On Sunday he was again hot in his semifinal but kept his focus to deliver a fantastic race in front of a watching Usain Bolt, the last Jamaican to take the title.

Letsile Tebogo, Botswana's Olympic 200m champion and silver medallist in the world 100m two years ago, false-started and was disqualified in the final.

Minutes earlier, American Melissa Jefferson-Wooden capped a dominant season by winning the women's event in championship record of 10.61s. Tina Clayton took silver for Jamaica in a personal best of 10.76, while bronze went to Olympic champion Julien Alfred of St. Lucia in 10.84.

American double Olympic discus champion Valarie Allman finally claimed the World title that has proved so elusive when she took gold with a throw of 69.48 metres. Allman, who had back-to-back bronzes in the Worlds, finished ahead of Jorinde van Klinken of the Netherlands (67.50m) and Cuba's Silinda Morales (67.25).

Frenchman Jimmy Gressier sprinted down the final straight to win a shock gold medal in the men's 10,000 metres and claim his first global title in 28 minutes, 55.77 seconds.

Ethiopia's Yomif Kejelcha, a silver medallist in Doha six years ago, won another silver in 28.55.83 with Swede Andreas Almgren third in 28.56.02.

Peres Jepchirchir of Kenya won the women's marathon, clocking two hours, 24 minutes and 43 seconds in a thrilling last-minute spurt that edged her past Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa and Julia Paternain of Uruguay.

Sarvesh Anil Kushare on Sunday became the first Indian to qualify for the high jump final while National record holder Gulveer Singh finished 16th in the 10,000m race with a below-par performance.

The 30-year-old Kushare, who made it to the showpiece at the 34th spot among 36 competing athletes through world ranking quota, scaled 2.25m to finish joint seventh in Group B of qualification round. He ended at joint ninth in the overall rankings across two groups.

Fast and furious: Seville edged Thompson and defending champion Lyles to take the gold; Jefferson-Wooden warded off Olympic champion Alfred and Clayton. AP

Ankit and Andre's rearguard delays Central's victory charge

DULEEP TROPHY FINAL

BENGALURU

Ankit Sharma (99, 168b, 13x4, 1x6) and Andre Siddarth (84 n.o., 190b, 7x4) nearly scripted an incredible comeback for South Zone, but a spate of late wickets allowed Central Zone to keep a firm grip on proceedings.

On the fourth day of the Duleep Trophy summit clash at the BCCI CoE Ground (1), Ankit and Andre batted for nearly four hours to create panic in the Central camp.

From facing an innings defeat at 222 for six, Ankit and Andre provided dogged resistance for 55 overs, handing South an improbable lead of 52 runs.

Losing the plot

It all changed when Ankit was dismissed. After blocking a couple of deliveries from left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya, Ankit lost the plot and spooned a flighted ball to mid-wicket.

Central's long wait for a wicket ended, and a few overs later, South was dismissed for 426.

On Monday, Central has the easy task of knocking off the 65-run target.

South's hopes of claiming a draw, or even fighting for a win, were raised when Ankit and Andre put on a 192-run seventh-wicket stand. Ankit, who made his senior debut for Madhya Pradesh but now plies his trade for Pondicherry, showed positive intent.

Tamil Nadu teenager Andre, just a year into his First Class career, put his head down and shut shop. With a cool mind and relaxed demeanour, the youngster looked completely at ease in a tough setting.

As the hours went by, the Central team slowly began to lose belief. Captain Rajat Patidar went on the defensive, spreading the field and inviting the easy singles. Ankit and Andre made up for the damage done in the morning session.

R. Smaran (67), Ricky Bhui (45), Mohammed Azharuddeen (27) and Salman Nizar (12) all threw away their wickets to give Central the upper hand.

Smaran, in particular, would be disappointed to have fallen while trying to force the pace, sweeping a delivery from outside off-stump to the hands of deep square-leg.

The scores: South Zone 149 & 426 in 121 overs (Mohit Kale 38, R. Smaran 67, Ricky Bhui 45, Andre Siddarth 84 n.o., Ankit Sharma 99, Kumar Kartikeya 4/110, Saransh Jain 3/130) vs Central Zone 511.

Andre and Ankit... bringing their A-game for South. K. MURALI KUMAR

Atiqa scripts history in UAE karting

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

Ten-year-old Indian Atiqa Mir on Sunday created history by becoming the first woman in UAE karting to win a race in the Minimax category. In a field of 14 drivers, Atiqa was the lone female and completed victory from pole position in the prestigious DAMC Championship opener.

In the finals, Atiqa kept it clean and within track limits to cross the chequered flag before anyone else. She is the first female to take a pole and a final win in MiniMax category.

Abhishek, Arshdeep, Tilak and Harshit to join India-A team

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Opener Abhishek Sharma and left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh were on Sunday named in the India-A squad for the second and third one-dayers against Australia-A.

Tilak Varma and Harshit Rana were also included in the squad for the final two matches by the BCCI senior selection panel.

All four are in the UAE for the Asia Cup and will join the India-A side on Sept. 28.

India-A squads: First one-day match: Rajat Patidar (Capt.), Prabhsimran Singh (wk), Riyan Parag, Ayush Badoni, Suryansh Shedge, Vipraj Nigam, Nishant Sindhu, Gurjapneet Singh, Yudhvir Singh, Ravi Bishnoi, Abhishek Porel (wk), Priyansh Arya and Simarjeet Singh. **Second and third matches:** Tilak Varma (Capt.), Patidar (Vice-Capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Prabhsimran (wk), Parag, Badoni, Suryansh, Vipraj, Sindhu, Gurjapneet, Yudhvir, Bishnoi, Porel (wk), Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh.

Swiss captain hails Indian players' performance

DAVIS CUP

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indian tennis has not had it this good in Davis Cup for decades. To beat Switzerland, the land of Roger Federer and Stan Wawrinka, with all its higher-ranked players, in front of their fans in Biel, was an incredible achievement by the Indian team.

In fact, captain Rohit Rajpal noted that this win was the only for an Indian team in Europe after the 1993 victory over France in Frejus.

"It is a dream come true. We are really happy. We got here early, and the team did a lot of work. Davis Cup is tough. I am extremely happy with the boys. They did a lot of hard work, played very well, and kept their level up," said Rajpal, after India secured a 3-1 victory on Saturday in the two-day tie.

The captain of the Swiss team, Severin Luthi was wholesome in his praise of India's performance, and only regretted the point that the home team did not find a way to make it 1-1 on the first day.

"First of all, credit to Indian team. They really pushed hard. They seemed to be very committed and had a lot of fire in playing for their country. They did a good job. My only regret is that we could not do a better job on the first day. At 1-1, there is more possibility to win the tie," he said.

The 626th-ranked Dhakshineswar Suresh had given a dream start for India by beating the Swiss No. 1 in straight sets, and the team capitalised on the momentum.

Captain Rajpal hoped to carry on the momentum into the Davis Cup Qualifier next year.

"When we know who we play, we will prepare equally hard, and see if we can take things further," he said.

The 13 winning teams from World Group-1 will join the other teams already in the Qualifiers pool, and have a two-round knock-out draw next year, to identify the seven teams progressing to the Finals.

Top pick: The selection of Dhakshineswar to play singles for India proved to be a masterstroke. AP

SEBI
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Manas, Rutuja triumph

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Manas Dhamne outplayed Cesar Bouchelaghem of France 6-2, 6-0 in the final of the $15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Monastir, Tunisia, on Sunday.

It was the second title in the professional circuit for the 17-year-old Manas who trains at the Piatti Centre in Italy, thanks to the backing of the IMG group.

There was more cheer for Indian tennis, as Rutuja Bhosale won the doubles title in the $60,000 women's event in France with Naiktha Bains of Britain.

The results: $60,000 ITF women, Le Neubourg, France: Doubles (final): Naiktha Bains (GBR) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Polina Latcenko & Sofya Lansere 6-2, 1-6, [10-6].
$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: Fina): Manas Dhamne bt Cesar Bouchelaghem (Fra) 6-2, 6-0.

Manas... terrific run. FILE PHOTO: SUDHAKARA JAIN

Champions: Rutuja and Naiktha, the winners. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT